Daily Report

East Europe

FBIS-EEU-93-033
Monday
22 February 1993

Daily Report
East Europe

FBIS-EEU-93-033 *22 February 1993*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Butrus-Ghali Orders Resumption of Aid Operation *[TANJUG]* 1
Ogata Has 'No Intention of Resigning' *[AFP]* 1
Croatia Condemns Conference of Yugoslav Intellectuals *[TANJUG]* 1

ALBANIA

Ozal Discusses Visit, Relations, Kosovo *[ATA]* 2
Addresses Deputies on Reform, Balkans *[Tirana Radio]* 2
Berisha, Ozal View Balkan Crisis *[Tirana Radio]* 4
Bukoshi Requests Ozal's Help *[ATA]* 5
EC Observers Inspect Border With Kosovo *[ATA]* 5
EC Observer on Inspections *[ATA]* 6
Former Officials Reported Under House Arrest *[ATA]* 6

BULGARIA

Parliament Opens Debate on Government Program *[BTA]* 7
Aleksandrov: Talks With IMF, World Bank 'Fruitful' *[BTA]* 7
Zhelev Views Balkan Policy, Yugoslav Conflict *[BTA]* 7
Lukanov Views Danger of 'Zhivkovism' in BSP *[BTA]* 8
SDS Leader Disavows Cooperation With DPS *[KONTINENT 15 Feb]* 8
Commentary Says Turkish Policy Still Unclear *[KONTINENT 18 Feb]* 8
Kenan's Turkish Democratic Party Criticized *[DUMA 17 Feb]* 9
Mikhaylov, Albania's Kopliku Discuss Cooperation *[ATA]* 9

CZECH REPUBLIC

Klaus on First Official Visit to Slovakia *[CTK]* 10
Havel States Wishes for Kovac, Slovakia *[Prague Radio]* 10
Czech Republic's Registers 1992 Trade Deficit *[CTK]* 10
CSFR 1992 Foreign Trade Figures Published *[CTK]* 10
Inflation Prognosis for 1993-1995 Released *[CTK]* 11
Bank Trying To Increase Foreign Reserves *[CTK]* 11
Dismissal of Government Office Head Considered *[CTK]* 11
Environment Minister Opposed To Temelin Completion *[CTK]* 12
Police Discover Illegally Held Submachine Guns *[CTK]* 12

SLOVAKIA

Meciar on IMF, Koruna, New President *[Bratislava Radio]* 13
Meciar Says Economic Policy Aimed at Stability *[Bratislava TV]* 15
Koruna Worth Less in Prague Than in Bratislava *[CTK]* 16
Bank Official: Currency Situation Requires Action *[MLADA FRONTA DNES 18 Feb]* 17
Nuclear Safety Official Denies Austrian Weekly's Claims *[CTK]* 17

HUNGARY

President Relieves, Appoints Ministers *[MTI]* 18
Prime Minister Discusses Government Reshuffle *[Budapest TV]* 18
Justice Official Discusses Provision Laws *[MAGYAR HIRLAP 18 Feb]* 19
Foreign Minister Comments on Security Policy *[Budapest Radio]* 20
Government Considering Measures on Gabcikovo *[Budapest Radio]* 21
Budget Deficit Stands at 17.3 Billion Forints *[MTI]* 22
16 to 17 Percent Inflation Expected This Year *[Budapest Radio]* 22
CSCE Minorities Commissioner Pays Visit 19 Feb 22
Meets With Antall *[Budapest Radio]* 22

Meets With Officials *[Budapest TV]* 23
Russian Security Director Cited on Talks *[MTI]* 23

POLAND

Walesa Signs 1993 Budget Law *[PAP]* 24
Senate Adopts 1993 Budget With No Amendments *[PAP]* 24
Sejm Bans Tobacco, Alcohol Advertising *[PAP]* 24
Senate Wants Joint Taxation for Married Couples *[PAP]* 24
Sejm Hears Reports on Lodz Region, Others *[PAP]* 25
Miners Spokesman Warns Sejm on Tax Decision *[Warsaw Radio]* 25
Piotrkow Solidarity Maintains Strike Alert *[PAP]* 25
Gdansk Union Wants Pro-Budget Deputies Out Of Solidarity *[PAP]* 25
Moczulski Appeals for Walesa Veto on Budget *[PAP]* 26
Drzycimski Explains Walesa Position on Budget *[Warsaw Radio]* 26
Budget Surplus To Go to State Wages *[PAP]* 26
Polish-Lithuanian Relations Intensify *[PAP]* 26
Foreign Ministry Official on Lithuanian Elections *[ZYCIE WARSZAWY 16 Feb]* 27
Lithuanian Ambassador Reviews Relations *[POLSKA ZBROJNA 16 Feb]* 27
Kaczynski Supports Early Presidential Elections *[SIS]* 28
Kaczynski Denies Allegations on Center Accord Split *[PAP]* 29
Center-Right Attacks Idea of Euroregions *[PAP]* 29
Spokesman Says Pro-Walesa Campaign Defends Reforms *[PAP]* 29
Walesa Calls For Cooperation on Migration Problem *[Hamburg DIE ZEIT 19 Feb]* 29
Suchocka Postpones Liquidation of Nuclear Plant *[PAP]* 30
Farm Restructuring Will Take Generation *[GAZETA WSPOLCZESNA 8 Feb]* 30

ROMANIA

Iliescu Returns From 'Remarkable' Visit to NATO *[Bucharest Radio]* 32
Iliescu Views Results of Visit *[ROMPRES]* 32
Dailies Acclaim Iliescu's Visit *[ROMPRES]* 32
Iliescu Holds Talks With NATO, EC *[cross-reference]* 33
North Atlantic Assembly Delegation Received *[ROMPRES]* 33
Ex-King Mihai Plans To Visit at Easter *[ROMANIA LIBERA 15 Feb]* 33
Ethnic Hungarians Set Up 'Little Parliament' *[Bucharest Radio]* 33
Roman Favors Continued Reform, EC Integration *[AZI 17 Feb]* 34
Liberal Merger Congress Elects Leaders *[Bucharest Radio]* 34
Negritoiu, EC Official Discuss Economic Reform *[Bucharest Radio]* 35
Negritoiu, Georgescu Outline Economic Strategy *[Bucharest Radio]* 35
More on Budget *[ROMPRES]* 35
Government Approves Credits for Agriculture *[ROMPRES]* 35
Constantinescu Holds Talks With IMF, World Bank *[ROMPRES]* 36
Statistical Situation of Foreign Investors Viewed *[ROMPRES]* 36
Unions Condemn 'Nefarious' Wage Policy *[ROMPRES]* 36
Ethnic Germans Protest Decision on TV Programs *[ROMANIA LIBERA 12 Feb]* 37
Article Anticipates Serious Food Shortage *[ADEVARUL 12 Feb]* 37

BOSNIA-HERCEGOVINA

Izetbegovic Orders Cease-fire, End to Boycott *[Sarajevo Radio]* 38
UNHCR to Resume Convoys *[TANJUG]* 38
Serbs Lift Blockade *[Zagreb Radio]* 38
Aid Convoy Reaches Zepa *[AFP]* 39
Sarajevo Authorities Lift Boycott *[Sarajevo Radio]* 39
Croats Oppose Aid Boycott *[TANJUG]* 39
TANJUG: Izetbegovic Cease-Fire Order Not Specific 40
Government Calls on UN To Deliver Aid by Air *[Zagreb Radio]* 40
Aid Airlift From Italy to Sarajevo Resumes *[TANJUG]* 40
157 People Die of Hunger, Cold in Srebrenica *[Sarajevo Radio]* 40
130 People Die of Hunger in Zepa Area *[Sarajevo Radio]* 40
Red Cross Helps 350 Civilians Leave Sarajevo *[Belgrade Radio]* 40
Morillon Seeks Agreement on Lifting Sarajevo Siege *[AFP]* 41
French Minister Mediates Release of Detainees *[Zagreb Radio]* 41

Serb Side 'In Principle' Ready for Talks *[TANJUG]* 41
Serbs May Attend New York Talks Without Karadzic *[TANJUG]* 41
Presidency Member on Continuation of Talks *[Sarajevo Radio]* 42
Muslim-Croat State Delegation to Travel to New York *[TANJUG]* 42
UN Maps Show 'Clear Evidence' of Serb Gains *[AFP]* 42
General Alert Sounded in Tuzla; City Under Attack *[Sarajevo Radio]* 43
Serb Tank Fire Hits Sarajevo's Main Hospital *[AFP]* 43
'Muslim Extremists' Attack Croat Towns *[Zagreb Radio]* 43
Muslim-Croat Clashes Continue in Central Region *[TANJUG]* 43
Nambiar Claims Situation Increasingly Difficult *[TANJUG]* 43
Dutch Corporal Killed in North of Country *[AFP]* 44
5,000 Muslims, Croats Reportedly Held in Drvar Camp *[Sarajevo Radio]* 44
Kamenica Commune Denies Massacre of Serbs *[Sarajevo Radio]* 44
TANJUG Details Croat, Muslim 'Torture' 44
Civilians in Mostar Rob UN Soldiers of Weapons *[AFP]* 45
Serbs Warn of Coup Against Izetbegovic *[TANJUG]* 45
General Acknowledges 'Dirty War for Profits' *[Hamburg DIE ZEIT 19 Feb]* 45

CROATIA

Tudjman, Ozal Hold News Conference *[zagreb TV]* 47
Tudjman, Turkey's Ozal Demand End to Bosnia War *[Zagreb TV]* 49
Turkish Foreign Ministry, Army Representatives Meet *[Zagreb TV]* 50
Tudjman, Bosnian Officials Discuss Relations *[Zagreb TV]* 50
Army Court Indicts HOS Leaders on Terrorist Charges *[AFP]* 50
Krajina President Comments on New York Talks *[Belgrade Radio]* 50
Serbs Resist Croatian Demands at Talks *[Belgrade Radio]* 51
Serb Leaders Say Croatia To Grant Access to Coast *[SRNA]* 51
Hadzic Denies Saying Croats Agreed to Proposals *[Belgrade Radio]* 51
Arkan Reportedly Ordered To Leave Krajina 52
Vukovar Officials, Krajina Assistant Minister Dismissed *[TANJUG]* 52
'Rift' in Krajina Leadership Analyzed *[BORBA 20-21 Feb]* 53
Fighting Continues in Krajina *[Belgrade Radio]* 53
Air-Raid Alarms in Sound in Knin, Benkovac *[Belgrade Radio]* 54
Serbs Reportedly Attack Zadar; Two Injured *[Zagreb Radio]* 54
Army Reports Serbs 'on the Move' in Slavonia *[AFP]* 54
Army Said To Launch New Offensive in Krajina *[TANJUG]* 54
Serbs Release Muslim POW's *[Zagreb Radio]* 55
Dailies Charge UNHCR Trucks of Arms Deliveries *[TANJUG]* 55

SLOVENIA

Peterle Asks Arab States To Take in Bosnians *[TANJUG]* 56
SNS Congress Elects Stanic Party President *[DELO 15 Feb]* 56

YUGOSLAVIA

Federal

Navy Reports Clash With Croatian Units *[TANJUG]* 57
Assembly To Elect Prime Minister on 1 March *[TANJUG]* 57
Youths Attack U.S. Property in Belgrade *[BORBA 19 Feb]* 57
Commander Favors Civilian for Defense Minister *[BORBA 18 Feb]* 57

Serbia

Vranje Hospital, Bakery Without Oil *[TANJUG]* 58
Sanctions Put 800,000 Workers on Forced Vacation *[Belgrade Radio]* 58
Official Views Fuel Shortages in Belgrade *[TANJUG]* 58
Serbian Radical Party Wants Economic Measures *[Belgrade Radio]* 59
Sandzak Muslims Said Calling For UN Forces *[Belgrade Radio]* 59

Macedonia

Foreign Minister Maleski Resigns *[TANJUG]* 60
Police Clash With Protesters in Skopje *[TANJUG]* 60
Refugee Village Riots Subside *[TANJUG]* 60

Butrus-Ghali Orders Resumption of Aid Operation

LD1902211593 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2039 GMT 19 Feb 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] New York, Feb 19 (TANJUG)—The humanitarian operation in Bosnia-Hercegovina will be resumed immediately, U.N. Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali said on Friday [19 February].

Ghali made the statement upon the return from his five-day visit to Tokyo where he had 'intensive contacts' with U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Sadako Ogata. Earlier this week, Ogata decided to suspend relief deliveries to Bosnia after the government in Sarajevo deprived the residents from the aid and humanitarian convoys for eastern Bosnia were halted.

Ogata said in the Kenyan capital Nairobi on Wednesday her decision was prompted by the obstruction on the part of the warring sides and by the use of humanitarian activities for political purpose.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina has for ten months been ravaged by an ethnic, civil and religious war.

Ghali said the warring sides in Bosnia must pledge their word fully and immediately that they will comply with the demands from the U.N. February 17 appeal and the Security Council resolutions regarding humanitarian aid.

The Security Council on Wednesday condemned all the sides in the conflict in Bosnia-Hercegovina for hampering the delivery of relief supplies.

Ogata Has 'No Intention of Resigning'

AU2202113293 Paris AFP in English 1108 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Sarajevo, Feb 22 (AFP)—[passage omitted] General Philippe Morillon, commander of the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Bosnia announced Monday [22 February] that the humanitarian airlift had been restored, which enables on average 150 tons of aid to be flown in daily.

A 10-truck aid convoy reached the eastern Bosnian town of Zepa on Sunday after being held up for a week.

Sunday, a UNHCR [Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees] spokesman in Geneva announced that U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata had decided to resume the delivery of relief supplies over the whole of Bosnia-Hercegovina after the warring parties undertook not to obstruct the supplies.

The spokesman said moreover that Ogata had no intention of resigning following the disavowal by U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali of her decision last Wednesday to suspend relief supplies. [passage omitted]

Croatia Condemns Conference of Yugoslav Intellectuals

LD1902224493 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2139 GMT 19 Feb 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] Belgrade, February 19 (TANJUG)—The Paris embassy of the breakaway Yugoslav Republic of Croatia Friday [19 February] condemned sharply UNESCO [United Nations Scientific, Educational, and Cultural Organization] over its intention to rally intellectuals from the former Yugoslavia at a round table.

The meeting entitled "ex-Yugoslavia: Thinking for the Future" was planned to take place in Paris next Tuesday.

The embassy statement, carried by REUTERS, sets out that UNESCO "had broken its own rules by calling the round table meeting while failing to notify member states" and was "allowing itself to present a kind of 'Yugoslavism'".

The embassy also said the "dialogue could not be constructive unless it clearly designated the real causes of the conflict" in former Yugoslavia, which it called "direct aggression against Croatia".

Croatia seceded forcibly from Yugoslavia in 1991. It was then that its troops clashed with the Yugoslav People's Army, which tried to prevent the secession.

UNESCO Director-General Federico Mayor was out of Paris so he could not comment the Croatian statement.

A UNESCO spokesman explained that "Mayor personally invited individual writers, artists, actors and religious leaders from the former Yugoslav republics to discuss how peace and understanding could be promoted among ordinary people."

The spokesman stressed that Mayor had the "right to do things on his own without conferring with member states". He stressed that on the territory of the former Yugoslavia "there are five new countries which cannot move physically and geographically apart from each other so the people will go on living there next to each other," he said. [Word indistinct] the roundtable "would not deal with political aspects of aspects of the conflict such as borders or constitutions"

[Words indistinct] expect this conference to solve all the problems of former Yugoslavia but it may be a step towards peaceful thinking, the spokesman said.

Ozal Discusses Visit, Relations, Kosovo

AU2002171593 Tirana ATA in English 0954 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Report on interview with Turkish President Turgut Ozal by an unidentified reporter; place and date not given]

[Text] Tirana, February 20 (ATA)— [Ozal] I am extremely satisfied to visit Albania. I am the first president of the Republic of Turkey to visit Albania. Our relations with Albania have deep historical roots. We have many common points both in our cultures and in our histories. At the same time, there is a considerable number of Turkish nationals of Albanian origin who have emigrated from Albania, Kosovo, and Macedonia. They are a sort of relationship between us and you. In this new period for Albania, our relations have been intensified since 1990, that is, since the period of the previous leadership. My first contact was in New York with the Former President Ramiz Alia. In the difficult days for Albania, the Republic of Turkey granted food aid and some technical assistance for Albania. Alongside the aid for Albania, this time we discussed more the investments, the support we shall give to Albania in this aspect. I hope that important developments will take place in this field in the coming years. We talked extensively with President Berisha on the problems in the Balkans.

Questions: You have been in the U.S.A. recently and had talks with President Clinton. You spoke on the crisis in former Yugoslavia and on the situation in Kosovo. Since you had a direct talk with President Clinton, which is the stand of the U.S. Administration on the solution to the situation in the region?

Answer [Ozal]: I met President Clinton on February 9. One day before the meeting I had a telephone call with President Berisha. He told me of the recent situation in Kosovo. When I met with President Clinton, I told him what Mr. Berisha had said to me, underlining in particular that the situation there is very critical. The U.S. Administration is concerned on the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina. The Vance-Owen plan is a common knowledge to all now. After the meeting with U.S. [as received], the U.S. Administration announced a six point declaration on the matter, and it appointed an ambassador as well. The ambassador went to Moscow and had contacts there. As I have been told, President Clinton is seriously considering this question. The Americans will make great efforts for the solution to the problem. Certainly, they insist that all should help in this regard. If the Serbs will continue to adopt the same stand, I have the impression that there will be an interference.

Question: Turkey is a great power of the Balkan region. Do you think that the crisis in former Yugoslavia has refrained the process of the Balkan cooperation and understanding? May Turkey take a new role to reactivate this Balkan process of understanding?

Answer [Ozal]: We have a great desire that cooperation resumes in the Balkans at a higher level than before. For this purpose, Turkey has also started cooperation with the countries of the Black Sea coast, including some Balkan countries. I may say that this cooperation on the Black Sea started at a time when the Yugoslav crisis was still going on. None of the former Yugoslav states has taken part in this cooperation yet. If the crisis will have a right solution, even the countries that have won independence from Yugoslavia will be able to take part in the cooperation of the Black Sea.

In this way, economic cooperation on the Black Sea will involve the entire Balkans.

Question: Which is your opinion on the activity of the government of Meksi on the economic reform in Albania?

Answer: What I am going to say is limited within the information available to us. I cannot speak for the whole reform. But as far as I have noticed, I am convinced that serious efforts are being made to take reliable steps on the road towards the free market economy.

Question: You also had a meeting with Turkish businessmen and mentioned that Turkey will concretely help Albania through investments. Can you be more concrete on this question?

Answer: We would like that Turkish businessmen make investments in Albania. A part of the credit from Ekzim-Bank will be used to urge these investments. Naturally, other investments are also needed besides this one. But all of them are related to the stability in the region. When war is going on nearby, many problems arouse for the arrival of foreign investments here, wherever they come from. I say this as a person who knows these matters well. Someone may ask: Will the conflict pass on to Albania? Something will happen in Kosovo. Therefore, generally speaking, foreign capital is somewhat fearful, fastidious. I have said these to your functionaries as well. But still we shall continue to instigate our businessmen.

Addresses Deputies on Reform, Balkans

AU1902211593 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1430 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Report by Zamira Koleci]

[Text] In continuation of its visit in Tirana, the Turkish delegation led by President Turgut Ozal visited the National Martyrs' Cemetery this morning. As a sign of honor and respect for the Albanian martyrs, Mr. Ozal placed a wreath at the Mother Albania monument.

During this ceremony, President Ozal was accompanied by Rexhep Uka, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, and Tirana Mayor Sali Kelmendi.

For one hour at the Palace of Brigades, the head of the Turkish state received in separate meetings Democratic Party Deputy Chairman Alia Spahia, Socialist Party

Chairman Fatos Nano, Social Democratic Party Chairman Skender Gjinushi, and Republican Party Chairman Sabri Godo.

At 1100, the Turkish president and his Albanian counterpart, Sali Berisha, visited parliament.

After being greeted by Assembly Chairman Arbnori, Mr. Turgut Ozal gave a speech.

Mr. Ozal said: As president of the modern Turkey that Mustafa Kemal Ataturk created according to the concept that unconditional sovereignty belongs to the people, I have the great pleasure to address you, the designated representatives of the Albanian people, in this holy building and symbol of the free will of the friendly and brotherly Albanian people. You represent a people that believe in freedom and democracy and has decided to carry out radical political and economic changes in your country. In the name of the Turkish people, who are your friends, I greet you for this historic duty that you have undertaken.

In his speech, President Ozal later pointed out Turkey's support and invaluable aid to our country in European forums, of which it is a member. Turkey has encouraged and supported the process of reforms in Albania and has considered it a friendly and brotherly duty to share its knowledge and experience in the field of democracy and free market economy. Throughout history the Turkish and Albanian people have lived together. They have had the chance to know each other very well. This coexistence has caused the two peoples to cherish the feeling of love, respect, and sincere assessment for each other. The latest developments in Albania have especially created new conditions that are much more desirable for establishing relations and cooperation between our friendly countries.

Further on, Ozal stressed that this visit is an indication of the satisfactory level of Turkish-Albanian relations and testifies to an excellent future of these relations. While in transition from a political-economic, strict, and centralized system to a free and pluralist system into a free-market system based on free initiative in the economy, it is natural to incur ups and downs and obstacles. It is important not to be afraid of the difficulties. Be patient and express your determination to reach the final goal. Mr. Ozal said that Turkey will be very happy when this road is open for Albania and it is determinedly marching on its way.

The political parties, as a main feature of pluralism and democracy, are in many aspects unavoidable elements of democracy. On the other hand, the opposition and criticism in democracy are natural. Even the active opposition and the lively press are indicators of democracy's health. He further stressed that perhaps democracy may not be the most ideal system, but it is the best of one found so far. That is why we should strongly embrace democracy.

After speaking about the road of pluralistic democracy that Turkey has been traveling for so long, he said that the developed level that Turkish democracy has reached, leaving behind periods of difficulties and obstacles, is a result of our determined steps on this road. Albania, too, has defined the free market economy as its single goal. You are determined to apply this model, starting from scratch. It is clear that this requires determination, patience, understanding, effort, and time. I think that success will be easier and quicker if you willingly adopt and determinedly apply at the proper time the measures that need to be taken. This stance is based on the successes we have achieved in Turkey. We are always ready to cooperate with you.

In his speech before the Albanian parliament, Mr. Ozal further stressed that these are all very satisfactory achievements. If you allow me to do so, I can later present some suggestions based on our experiences.

Until recently, Albania was almost closed to the world. However, the contrary can happen now—that is, Albania can completely open up to the world. The geographical position of your country is very favorable and your population is not very large. A long-term plan could be drafted for 15 years. Albania could become a paradise of taxes for the world, financial center, touristic center, or a country that provides the world with various shipping facilities. Considering the fact that today's world focuses on services, we can consider the advantages of drafting a plan in this aspect. The services sector, of course, requires qualified people. That is why if you attach the required importance to education in Albania, personnel would then be able to resume the necessary positions in the future and in the framework of cooperation with the foreign capital. It is natural that all of these require time. I am convinced that the Albanian people, who have suffered from shortages for so many years, will endure a bit longer and work harder to achieve the deserved welfare. Being connected by a highway throughout Turkey, Sofia, Skopje, and Tirana will be of great importance for our countries. The telecommunication fiber-optic connection that will be established and will extend all the way to Italy is also equally important. These connections will link Albania with the Black Sea region, as well as Turkey with these areas.

I would like to emphasize to your Assembly the importance of Albanian-Macedonian relations and the stability of Macedonia. Our countries are situated in a zone that is very critical for world peace and where the most complicated problems of the world have gathered. We pay great attention to preserving peace and stability in this area. We believe that the establishment of a spirit of cooperation in the region is in the best interest of all countries. In this framework, I believe that the normalization of Albania's relations with Macedonia as soon as possible will be very useful, because Macedonia's stability is of great importance for both you and us. Thanks to the constructive dialogue established with Macedonia, we can create opportunities to work together to improve the situation of the Macedonians of Turkish origin.

Unfortunately, stability in the Balkans has been broken with the disruption of Yugoslavia and the Serbian aggression—first against Croatia and then Bosnia-Hercegovina. This aggression is being committed against an independent and UN-member country. The international community has, unfortunately, not managed to show the required effectiveness toward the crisis in Bosnia. That is why the tragedy in this country still continues. We are worried that this situation will throw the aggressors into new adventures.

Before coming to Albania, I visited Bulgaria and Macedonia. I witnessed that even these two countries have the same worries with us. During my visit to the United States, I noticed that the U.S. Congress had the same concerns. In fact, the U.S. warnings against Serbia regarding the Kosovo issue are a result of these concerns. We are closely following the aggravated situation in Kosovo. We hope that the people in Kosovo will be able to use all their rights and freely perform their education, work, and religious activities without any pressure. We are afraid that the increase of repressions by Serbian chauvinism in Kosovo, Sandzak, and Macedonia will set fire to the Balkans. Meanwhile, we know that the situation in Kosovo has not become worse because the Albanian leadership there has not fallen prey to the provocations.

Mr. Ozal stressed that under the situation our region is facing, it is important to expand cooperation between Turkey and Albania and assess the developments with reciprocal consultations and restraint. I believe that such a cooperation, which will be able to join the efforts of the free world, will play a preventive and suppressing role in the new adventures in the region.

Addressing the Albanian parliamentarians, Mr. Ozal said that you have undertaken a very important duty at a time that marks a turning point in Albania's history. You know that your duty does not only consist of common, legislative activities. You are closely following the developments in the region. You have undertaken a mission with great responsibility, but the honor is also as great. On one hand, you are drafting the necessary laws to carry out reforms in Albania, and on the other hand, you are drafting the laws of your state based on contemporary norms and concepts.

In closing, Mr. Ozal expressed thanks for the close friendship and warm welcome displayed by the Albanian people, government, and Assembly toward him since the moment he and his delegation set foot in Albania. We will inform the Turkish people of this love manifested toward us. You can be assured that the Turkish people cherish the same feelings toward you.

President Turgut Ozal later went to Ethem Beu Mosque at Tirana's center. After being received by His Grace Sabri Koci, he attended Friday's religious rites. According to the rites, a sacrifice was made in front of the mosque.

At the end of the morning activities, Turkish President Turgut Ozal and other high-level officials of the delegation participated in the inaugural ceremony of Mehmet Arkiz Ersal [as heard], a Turkish private college. After the national anthems of both countries were performed, which were sung by Albanian students, the Turkish president visited the excellent facilities of the lycee and met with teachers and students. This year, 200 men and women will study in this college, whereas next year the number is expected to quadruple.

Berisha, Ozal View Balkan Crisis

AU2102163293 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1430 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Report by Zamira Koleci; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] At the end of his visit in Tirana, Turkish President Turgut Ozal and Albanian President Sali Berisha gave a news conference at the Palace of Congresses.

In his statement, Mr. Berisha assessed the visit as very successful, stressing its great contribution in developing and encouraging the friendly relations between our both countries, relations that have historical, blood, and familiar ties on their foundations. Concerning this, our president emphasized:

[Berisha] "Millions of Albanians are living in Turkey, and they are settled in all Turkish state structures. That is why it is the duty of the politicians from both countries, of the businessmen, the distinguished men, and of Turks and Albanians in general to uninterruptedly develop these relations and lead them toward perfection."

Regarding the situation in the Balkans, the Albanian president said:

[Berisha] "The cause of the crisis denounces the aggressive policy of Milosevic [Serbian president] and the Belgrade circles to forcibly create a greater Serbia. There is no doubt that after Bosnia, if the international community does not adopt strict measures against Milosevic, he will transfer the war scenario toward Kosovo and Macedonia. We think that the regional crisis cannot be solved without solving the Kosovo problem. The crisis has begun in Kosovo. Disregarding this factor will prolong the crisis and make it very dangerous. In this direction, we think that the placement of Kosovo under UN and NATO control, establishment of the legal institutions in Kosovo, and finding a solution acceptable for all sides in conformity with the Final Helsinki Act and the UN Charter is indispensable in solving the Kosovo problem. Albania is determined to respect the agreements it has signed. Albania does not want a change of borders by force. However, it will not tolerate the ethnic cleansing of Albanians from their territories."

Mr. Berisha expressed his conviction that Macedonia faces no danger from Albania. Asked by a Turkish reporter about the recognition of the Republic of Macedonia, Berisha answered:

[Berisha] "I would say that Albania undoubtedly wishes to recognize its old neighbors. In this direction, we will greatly welcome it if we reach an agreement in Skopje soon. This agreement will mark a very important step forward in the relations between Albanians and Macedonians in Macedonia and in the recognition and respect for their rights as free and equal citizens of Macedonia."

Regarding the same problem, Berisha greeted the dialogue between Macedonia and Greece which, according to him, should be encouraged by all.

Concerning the regional initiatives, after stressing the support to the New York conference, Albanian president said:

[Berisha] "We think that regional initiatives should be found, thus contributing to the solution of this problem."

As for the Albanian-Turkish cooperation, Berisha stressed the priorities. He said that we will concentrate on creating connections in infrastructure, highway, telecommunication, education, and free movement of citizens.

With the pleasure and pride of the first Turkish president to visit Albania, Mr. Turgut Ozal expressed himself enthusiastically about the visit in the friendly and neighboring country. He spoke about the convenient conditions created to approach Albania to Turkey, saying that this fact is being also facilitated by the same viewpoints and the nonexistence of misunderstandings and disagreements. Ozal assessed the traditional friendship between the two countries to be of great importance for the peace in the region, stressing that Albania is Turkey's partner in these efforts. The present situation in the Balkans makes the cooperation and the consultation between both countries indispensable.

Asked by a reporter whether Mr. Ozal is the peace missionary in the Balkans, the Turkish president answered: I do not have such pretensions. However, all Balkan countries deserve peace, and as a country of this region, it is quite natural that Turkey is working for peace.

Regarding Turkish-Albanian cooperation, Ozal stressed the need for cooperation in the judicial field and the agreements to encourage investments and abolish dual taxes. It was agreed to build the Tirana-Ohrer-Sofia-Turkey road and optic fiber communications system, on which both governments will continue contacts. The technical, military, banking, import-export cooperation, and bank credits will be directed through investments in Albania, which will mainly include textiles, clothing, and rugs.

Mr. Ozal later spoke about the economic cooperation through the help of the Black Sea, which will ensure the Balkan integration.

Concerning the problems of the crisis in the Balkans, Mr. Ozal declared that in the meetings with the high-level Albanian functionaries, it was noticed that we shared the same viewpoints. He said that we presented the concern that if the Serbian aggression is not halted in Bosnia-Hercegovina, it will extend to Kosovo and Macedonia. If the tense situation in Kosovo continues, it will assume more dangerous proportions. Mr. Ozal explained that those who live in Kosovo should have their basic human rights. In the talks, they reciprocally stressed that Macedonia's stability is of importance for the stability of the entire region. In this aspect, Mr. Ozal expressed the wish that the problems of Macedonia with Albanians to be solved as quickly as possible. In this direction, he offered assistance for both sides.

After the news conference, at 1030 the Turkish president and the delegation he led left our country, seen off by President Berisha and other high-level Albanian functionaries.

Bukoshi Requests Ozal's Help

AU2002171893 Tirana ATA in English 0954 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] Tirana, February 20 (ATA)—The premier of Kosovo Bujar Bukoshi met in Tirana with the Turkish President Mr. Ozal. On this occasion they talked on the grave situation in Kosovo and the proportions of crisis that has swept over former Yugoslavia. Dr. Bukoshi hailed Ozal's visit to some Balkan countries and asked him that Turkey do its best to prevent the Serb aggression in Kosovo. They stressed that the most effective act against this aggression is to stop the Serb military machine which threatens to destabilize the whole region and broader.

EC Observers Inspect Border With Kosovo

AU1902144193 Tirana ATA in English 1122 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] Tirana, February 19 (ATA)—Since January 21, a four member group of observers of the European Community has been stationed in Kukes to prepare conditions for other missions that will go to that district to observe the borderline between Albania and Kosovo. So far, the group has had numerous meetings with military and civil authorities of the districts of Kukes, Has, and Tropoje and has explained to them the purpose of their presence and of others who will go to these areas.

So far, they have set up an observation center in Kukes which will also be the seat of the mission. They are working to set up another center in Tropoje.

The observers' group is satisfied with the predisposition of the local authorities to help them and they hope this cooperation will continue in the future.

EC Observer on Inspections

AU2102143793 Tirana ATA in English 0910 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Text] Tirana, February 21 (ATA)—We are here in Albania on the request of the Albanian Government to observe any extraordinary act in your borders. We shall stay here as long as this government wants us to be here, the chief of the observation mission of the European Community, the British Gary Sheridan, said in an interview with the ALBANIAN TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY.

Two months ago, Albania and the European Community signed the memorandum of understanding for the observation mission, which was a step forward in their relations in the field of security. The mission, which is in Albania for one month now, is part of the preventing policy adopted in international forums. Its aim is to contribute to the stability in the region. We have made several observations in the border of Albania with Montenegro, Kosovo, and Macedonia, Mr. Sheridan said. In this way we can establish contacts with the border authorities in those zones to have a clear concept and work out a working plan for the teams to come.

Asked by the ATA reporter whether such a mission was necessary to be installed on the other side of the border, since the danger, of which all are talking, is expected from that side, the chief of the mission said: We already have teams in Macedonia and Montenegro. The mission is working to have its team in Kosovo, too.

Sheridan did not accept to make any comment regarding the American plan for the solution of the crisis in former Yugoslavia and his personal opinion on the solution of the complex questions in the Balkan region, saying I cannot express my personal opinion as long as I am in this uniform.

Former Officials Reported Under House Arrest

AU2002172393 Tirana ATA in English 1119 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] Tirana, February 20 (ATA)—On the basis of the denunciation by the Bank of Albania, the Investigation Office of Tirana District has started the penal case against the former leaders of the Trade Bank of Albania, Agron Saliu and Agim Tartari, for acts running counter to responsibilities of their post. As a result of this, they have made possible that a sum of 1,6 million dollars pass on the account of a foreign national.

These two persons are detained. For the same case and for violation of laws while in the post of the premier, Vilson Ahmeti, too, is under house arrest.

Parliament Opens Debate on Government Program

AU1902143093 Sofia BTA in English 1345 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] Sofia, February 19 (BTA)—Today Parliament had a three-hour-long debate on the programme submitted by independent economist Lyuben Berov's cabinet earlier this month. However, none of the three parliamentary groups came out with an official position on the programme. The debates will be resumed next week.

At the very beginning ex-Deputy Prime Minister Ilko Eskenazi, M.P. [member of parliament] for the Union of Democratic Forces [UDF], described the debates as a formal act. In a televised statement last night Prime Minister Berov said that the programme had been presented to the M.P.'s for information and not for taking a vote on it. According to Mr. Eskenazi, the Socialists and the Movement for Rights and Freedoms [MRF], to the majority of which Prof. Berov's cabinet owes its election at the end of last year, will support the cabinet's programme with reservations to be able to distance themselves from it later under the excuse it is implemented in "an odd way."

The UDF M.P.'s who took the floor criticized separate aspects of the programme. The UDF was the sole political force that declared itself to be against the cabinet on its election. Mr. Ilko Eskenazi drew attention to the fact that the basic macroeconomic parameters for 1993 set out in the programme were rather wide-ranging: For instance, the budget deficit is set at 6-8 percent of the gross domestic product. The ex-deputy prime minister accused the cabinet of having made social promises that are impossible to keep.

The socialist M.P.'s underlined that the grave economic situation at the moment was the result of UDF's one-year rule (November 1991 December 1992). Socialist ex-Prime Minister Andrey Lukanov leveled especially slashing criticize at the former government. Ex-Prime Minister Filip Dimitrov took the floor to respond citing concrete data on the growth of incomes and savings last year when his cabinet was still in office.

Mr. Ivan Palchev was the sole M.P. for the Movement of Rights and Freedoms who took the floor today. As it is known, Prof. Berov's cabinet was formed using the mandate assigned to the MRF. Mr. Palchev focussed on the necessity to guarantee national security by taking specific measures

Aleksandrov: Talks With IMF, World Bank 'Fruitful'

AU2002190293 Sofia BTA in English 1831 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] Sofia, February 20 (BTA)—A Bulgarian delegation led by Finance Minister Stoyan Aleksandrov today returned from Washington, where it held talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. "I think, the talks were fruitful," Mr. Aleksandrov said in an interview on national radio upon his return.

"we discussed the cabinet's policy and how much some measures, such as privatization, the land reform, etc., would cost the exchequer," Mr. Aleksandrov said. According to the Bulgarian Government's estimates, the 1993 budget deficit should not exceed 8 percent, he said.

An IMF mission will soon visit Sofia, the finance minister said. By that time, the IMF will have decided whether to accept a budget deficit projection of 7.9 percent, as moved by the Bulgarian side, or move a lower figure. The sides have not specified whether they will sign arrangements covering one year or two years, the finance minister said.

"We decided we did not need to try and complete the fulfillment of the current arrangements, which run out this March," Mr. Aleksandrov said. There is a substantial discrepancy between projections under the second standby arrangement and the results posted in 1992, according to the finance minister. Taking into account the cabinet change in Bulgaria and the changes in the IMF mission to this country, the IMF will not make the signing of the new arrangement conditional on the implementation of the present agreement, according to the Bulgarian ambassador to the United States, Ognyan Pishev, interviewed on the phone by the TRUD newspaper.

Zhelev Views Balkan Policy, Yugoslav Conflict

AU2002194093 Sofia BTA in English 1933 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] Sofia, February 20 (BTA)—During his recent visit to Sofia, Turkish President Turgut Ozal did not ask that Turkey be given air passage over Bulgaria, in case it intervenes in Bosnia, President Zhelev told TV and radio reporters today. The Bulgarian president stressed that this issue was not raised, either at his private talks with Mr. Ozal or at the talks between the two delegations. This is obviously a speculation of the Turkish press, Dr. Zhelev said.

Turkey is familiar Bulgaria's position, which is categorical: This country would not intervene in Yugoslavia, by either troops or arms deliveries, Dr. Zhelev said. We urge all Balkan states and countries neighbouring on Yugoslavia, including Turkey, to refrain from intervention, President Zhelev said. According to him, in this region, burdened by its past, a military intervention may awaken old grievances and prove to be the shortest way to a Balkan war. The president said that some differences of opinion with both Greece and Turkey "do not prevent us from working together, from completely trusting each other and coordinating our actions to end the Yugoslav war."

Bulgaria is seeking to promote goodneighbourly relations with all Balkan states, President Zhelev said. He said

that these relations are being developed on the basis of bilateral treaties on cooperation, such as the ones signed with all neighbouring countries, excluding Yugoslavia, over the last two years. These are a new type of treaties, which take into account the new realities, Bulgaria's new attitude to its neighbours and its efforts to play a nobler role in the Balkans, he said.

According to President Zhelev, the axis policy is an anachronism, which may hamper cooperation in the Balkans and in Europe.

Bulgaria has not reordered its foreign policy priorities since 1990, President Zhelev said. This country is pursuing an independent course consistent with national interests and international law, he said.

The president announced that Bulgaria is expected to sign agreements on association with the EC and on joining the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) within a couple of weeks.

Lukanov Views Danger of 'Zhivkovism' in BSP

AU2002204293 Sofia BTA in English 2020 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] Sofia, February 20 (BTA)—The Bulgarian Socialist, former Communist, Party (BSP) is facing a danger of a return to Zhivkovism, Andrey Lukanov, ex-prime minister and MP [members of parliament] of the BSP, said today in an interview on Radio Free Europe. According to Mr. Lukanov, who is a member of the Alliance for Social Democracy (OSD), a reformist trend within the BSP, Zhivkovism (a derivative from the name of long-standing communist dictator Todor Zhivkov), is a Bulgarian brand of neo-Stalinism. In an interview on Radio Free Europe last week, Petya Shopova MP of the BSP (of the OSD), also spoke about ongoing trends of recommunization and a reembracement of the Stalinist doctrine.

Speaking about this threat, I mean not only the presence in politics of people feeling nostalgia for the past, and the presence of Zhivkov himself (which is often underestimated), but also the attempt to revive some basic characteristics of the old type of Communist Party, said Mr. Lukanov, a longtime member of Zhivkov's top nomenklatura. According to him, the danger is not unavoidable, yet it is real. The BSP can avert this threat by holding to the course it took after Zhivkov's ouster, i.e., social democracy, according to Mr. Lukanov.

According to Mr. Lukanov, hardliners in the party are getting more active recently. This is due to the rise of leftist feelings in society fostered by difficulties of the transition, the deepening economic crisis and declining living standards, according to him.

Mr. Lukanov remains loyal to the idea of reforming the BSP from the inside. He said the process of reforming the party had not exhausted its potential, although it was slow and painful. "Some people seem to want to provoke conflicts in the party and blame the OSD for plotting to split the BSP. The OSD has no such intentions," Mr. Lukanov stressed.

The OSD's clear-cut ideological stance is what causes conservative elements to criticize it, he said.

SDS Leader Disavows Cooperation With DPS

AU1802193993 Sofia KONTINENT in Bulgarian 15 Feb 93 p 2

[Report by Vulcho Milchev]

[Text] At a public meeting in Kurdzhali on 14 February, Filip Dimitrov, chairman of the National Coordinating Council of the SDS [Union of Democratic Forces], declared that the SDS no longer relies on its former political supporters from the DPS [Rights and Freedoms Movement]. He said that it has become impossible not only to form a government together, but even to maintain normal cooperation with the DPS parliamentary group. The SDS's former friends, he said, had proved to be inconsistent and treacherous. He suspected that they had collaborated with the forces that wanted to overthrow the SDS government. According to the former prime minister, many people who had voted for the DPS were perplexed because they had expected one thing from their deputies, but were presented with something quite different.

The former prime minister announced that most of the staff of the SDS government were no longer at the Council of Ministers, but he saw that persons employed by the Lukanov cabinet, who during the following two administrations were removed from the corridors of power, were now showing up there again.

Filip Dimitrov described the Lyuben Berov cabinet as a government of the president's adviser, supported by a parliamentary majority whose only distinguishing feature was that it was a creature of the president. It was expected that this cabinet would suffer shocks and fall immediately. National Assembly Deputy Khristo Biserov, who accompanied Filip Dimitrov on his tour of the region, also declared that elections would be held soon. The audience chanted in response: "Elections, Elections!"

Commentary Says Turkish Policy Still Unclear

AU2202093093 Sofia KONTINENT in Bulgarian 18 Feb 93 p 6

[Commentary by Maksim Bozhilov: "Lack of Clarity After Visit"]

[Text] President Turgut Ozal succeeded in dispelling certain concerns in Sofia that Turkey is preparing for independent armed intervention in Bosnia. Naturally, this is calming, but it does not mean that in front of different audiences and on other occasions he has not said or would say different things.

However, many things remain unclear. Turkey's more militant position, as President Zhelyu Zhelev said, evokes serious concern not only in Bulgaria, but also in the Balkans, and the diplomatic character of his declaration, namely, that "there is not even the shadow of a doubt concerning Turkey," cannot eliminate the concern that armed intervention in the Yugoslav conflict by any country could provoke a Balkan war.

Greater clarity also is needed in anything related to the statement of Ahmed Dogan, leader of the Movement for Rights and Freedoms, after his meeting with Turgut Ozal, that Bulgaria's position is yet to be determined in the event that military action spreads to Macedonia.

It also is not clear what progress was achieved in the sphere of military cooperation. The Bulgarian side mentioned that Turkey has the second largest army in NATO after the United States, and that there is a certain asymmetry in the border areas. However, the withdrawal of a single battalion by both sides and new wishes for further expanding and strengthening relations are not sufficient.

Kenan's Turkish Democratic Party Criticized

AU2202114393 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 17 Feb 93 p 6

[Commentary by Radka Georgieva: "Democracy Also Produces Stillborn Babies"]

[Text] When Grand National Assembly member Adem Kenan made flagrant nationalistic statements, the members of his Movement for Rights and Freedoms [DPS] were the first to dissociate themselves from him. People inexperienced in politics asked themselves what a person who obviously serves foreign national interests is doing in the Grand National Assembly.

Time passed and the more or less forgotten Kenan gave a shrill sign of life. He said that he is establishing a Turkish Democratic Party in Bulgaria and that all those who do not want to be members of the DPS could join the new party.

It is still unclear whether Kenan's formation has any members, precisely how many supporters he has, and whom they serve. The newly hatched leader raises a lot of noise in the mass media, which today is not too difficult. From Kenan's own statements one can only learn that Turkey's interests are clearly much more dear to him. Naturally, all this is hidden by appropriate demagogic statements.

Kenan took himself seriously and decided that he is a politician. He quickly "established" that thousands of young Bulgarian Muslims wanted to defend their brothers in Bosnia with weapons in their hands. At about the same time the leader of the pro-Turkish party announced that only his people could lead municipalities with mixed population.

Now Kenan claims that his party will also create structures outside Bulgaria's borders, among the Bulgarian emigrants in Turkey. The emigrants themselves heard about this from the mass media and did not even suspect that the superdemocrat Kenan exists, a well-informed source among the Bulgarian refugees claims.

Despite his energy and elan for the time being Kenan does not have a real structure in the Eastern Rhodopes, where the most compact mass of population of Turkish ethnic origin exists. The leaders of the executive power in this region, who come from the same ethnic group, know very well that to approach Kenan means a total confrontation with the DPS. The rest, more simply called the "voters," do not view Kenan's statements seriously.

However, observers say that this would not prevent his becoming a real force in Bulgarian political life. I myself do not see what could stop him from continuing to think in the same manner, since we have no clear global concept on the national issue, or categorical national policy.

As far as the actual existence of the pro-Turkish formation is concerned, the explanation is simple—democracy also gives birth to stillborn babies and not only to masterpieces.

Mikhaylov, Albania's Kopliku Discuss Cooperation

AU2002172093 Tirana ATA in English 1113 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] Tirana, February 20 (ATA)—As the spokesman of the Ministry of Public Order reports, Bashkim Kopliku, minister of public order, on his way back from Hungary, where he attended the conference of the European ministers of the interior on illicit emigration, paid a short working visit to Sofia invited by the Minister of the Interior of Bulgaria Viktor Mikhaylov. In Bulgaria he got acquainted with the organizational structures of the Ministry of the Interior and particularly the Department of Home Affairs of Sofia.

Home Minister Mikhaylov hosted a dinner in honour of Mr. Kopliku. During the dinner they discussed among the other things the broad space of cooperation opened by the treaty of friendship signed by President Berisha and President Zhelev in Tirana. They also focused on the ongoing cooperation between the police forces of our two countries.

On February 19, Mr. Kopliku returned home.

Klaus on First Official Visit to Slovakia

LD2202101793 Prague CTK in English 0939 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Text] Prague Feb 22 (CTK)—Czech Premier Vaclav Klaus left today for his first official visit to the Slovak Republic, where he will meet with Slovak Premier Vladimir Meciar and take part in a cabinet session.

During the one-day visit to Bratislava, Klaus will also meet with the Chairman of the Slovak Parliament Ivan Gasparovic and President Michal Kovac.

Klaus and Meciar have already met unofficialy twice this year, once in Bratislava and once in Prague. No information has been made public about these meetings, at which the two premiers apparently discussed the division of the Czechoslovak crown.

Today's discussions will focus on preparation of the outline agreement on the division of the property belonging to the former Czechoslovak Federation, according to the Czech Government office.

Czech Finance Minister Ivan Kocarnik, Minister of Agriculture Josef Lux, and Czech Ambassador-delegate to the Slovak Republic Filip Sedivy accompanied Klaus on his trip today.

Klaus said on the television programme at the invitation of Free Europe on Saturday [20 February] that he had originally expected to sign the outline agreement on the division of federal property at today's meeting, but that several details have not yet been worked out.

Kocarnik said on Thursday that two other agreements are ready to be signed, one on the division of assets and claims of the Czechoslovak State Bank and the other on the settlement of its balance.

Havel States Wishes for Kovac, Slovakia

LD2102144593 Prague Radiozurnal Radio Network in Czech 1315 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Interview with Czech President Vaclav Havel by correspondent Stiegler at Lany presidential residence, date not given: "Conversations at Lany"—live or recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Stiegler] Finally, I would like to mention one important event of the past week, namely Michal Kovac's election as president of Slovakia. I would be interested to know what you wish for him as the supreme representative of our nearest neighbor. What would you wish him in connection with his post and what would you like to discuss with him once you visit Slovakia?

[Havel] I am of course glad that in the second round of the election the Slovak National Council agreed on a candidate acceptable to the various parties. I am also glad that it is Michal Kovac, whom I know and with whom we have a correct relationship. I have already received an official invitation to his inauguration.

What do I wish him? I wish him the same thing as I wish the whole Slovak Republic, the whole Czech Republic and myself—namely, that democracy in our countries grows stronger; that we really respect and observe human rights; that we make citizens' freedoms stronger; that our political life becomes stable; and that the economic reform continues to progress without any major social shocks. I hope our two republics have the best possible relations.

Czech Republic's Registers 1992 Trade Deficit

LD1902224993 Prague CTK in English 2142 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] Prague Feb 19 (CTK)—The Czech Republic's foreign trade ended in a deficit of 664 million dollars in 1992, compared with a surplus of 840 million in 1991, and was worth 17.118 billion dollars, an increase of 13.1 per cent on 1991, Czech Industry and Trade Minister Vladimir Dlouhy told members of the Prague Diplomatic Corps today.

Exports were worth 8.227 billion dollars (an increase of 3 per cent) and imports were worth 8.891 billion dollars (an increase of 24.4 per cent).

The biggest turnover last year was registered with Germany (5.075 billion dollars, a surplus of 410 million), Austria (1.413 billion dollars, a deficit of 196 million), Italy (889.8 million dollars, a surplus of 52 million), Russia (858.5 million dollars, a deficit of 199 million), Poland (742.4 million dollars, a surplus of 73 million), France (628.8 million dollars, a deficit of 206 million) and the USA (631.8 million dollars, a deficit of 341 million).

Geographically, the biggest trade turnover was registered in trade with the European Community (EC) - 8.355 million dollars, an increase of 32.3 per cent on 1991, a surplus of 329 million dollars.

Exports to EC countries were worth 4.342 billion dollars, an increase of 25.6 per cent on 1991. Imports were worth 4.013 billion dollars, an increase of 40.3 per cent on 1991.

CSFR 1992 Foreign Trade Figures Published

AU1902184493 Prague CTK in English 1948 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] Prague Feb 17 (CTK)—The balance of foreign trade in the former Czechoslovakia in 1992 is a deficit of 25 billion crowns (approximately 800 million USD), according to preliminary data from the Czech Office of Statistics and the Office of Statistics of the Slovak Republic.

In relation to states of the former Soviet Union, trade reached a deficit value of 51.2 billion crowns (approximately 1.7 billion USD), and to states with developed market economies it reached 11.9 billion crowns (approximately 440 million USD).

States with developed market economies had a 63.1 percent share of total foreign trade turnover, which reached about 684 billion crowns (approximately 23.5 billion USD). Of this, European Community states contributed about 45.7 percent.

Imports to the former Czechoslovakia reached over 354 billion crowns (approximately 12.2 billion USD) last year, an increase of 9.7 percent over 1991. Imports from countries with developed market economies increased 33.7 percent. Imports from all other areas decreased.

Czechoslovakia's total exports reached more than 329 billion crowns (approximately 11.3 billion USD) in 1992. Exports to European Community states, to European Free Trade Association states and to developed states increased. Exports to countries of the former Soviet Union decreased by about 45 percent.

Definitive data for 1992 will be available in mid-1993 at the earliest.

Inflation Prognosis for 1993-1995 Released

AU2202141393 Prague CTK in English 1953 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] Prague Feb 19 (CTK)—Inflation in the Czech Republic is expected to run to 16 percent this year, eight percent in 1994 and six percent in 1995, and in the Slovak Republic to 27 percent this year, 19 percent in 1994 and 10 percent in 1995, said Ivan Sujan at a press conference here today.

Sujan was chairman of the former Federal Statistics Bureau and is now employed by the Czech Statistics Bureau (CSU). He was citing data provided by the CSU and the Slovak agency Infostat Bratislava.

Consumer prices increased 8.5 percent in the Czech Republic in January, he said. Monthly inflation levels will have to remain at around 0.5 percent in order to equal 16 percent for the year. Any extraordinary price increases would cause inflation to exceed the estimated limit.

The expectation of a devaluation of the Slovak crown by 15 percent now and an additional 12 - 15 percent at the end of 1993 is built into the prognosis.

The Czech crown is expected to be revalued in 1994 and 1995. The agencies estimate that the rate of exchange between the two currencies should be around 1.5 Slovak crowns to one Czech crown.

Bank Trying To Increase Foreign Reserves

AU1902190893 Prague CTK in English 1908 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] Prague Feb 16 (CTK)—If the Slovak crown is devalued as expected, that move would not affect payments for goods or services contracted prior to the separation of Czech and Slovak currencies on February 8, spokesman for the Czech National (central) Bank (CNB) Martin Svehla told CTK today.

However, the situation changes with those contracts concluded after February 8, Svehla added. A clause requiring a payment in Czech crowns must be inserted in every contract by the Czech payee. Svehla also recommended amending existing contracts or insist on the use of hard currencies instead.

Svehla also spoke of the effort his bank has lately made to increase its hard currency reserves. As of February 15 these reserves amounted to 540 million USD after a more buying effort at Czech commercial banks.

The CNB is currently undertaking other ways to increase the reserves, the spokesman added. It will receive an emergency loan of about 250 million USD from the International Monetary Fund, 100 million DEM emergency loan from German Commerzbank, another 200 million USD from a consortium of financial institutions and also plans to issue own Eurobonds worth approximately 300 million USD.

Dismissal of Government Office Head Considered

AU1902190293 Prague CTK in English 2050 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] Prague Feb 18 (CTK)—Sources close to the Chairman of the Civic Democratic Party (ODS) and Czech Premier Vaclav Klaus explain his hesitancy to dismiss Jiri Kovar from the post of the Czech Government Office head by his habit of not acting on the basis of rumours, but on conclusive arguments.

The case of Kovar, 29, former ODS deputy chairman, was discussed by the ODS leadership on February 16 and it was proposed to dismiss him from his present post, according to Jaroslav Mlcak, head of the ODS group in the former federal parliament.

At the latest ODS congress on November 7, 1992, Kovar was accused of manipulation of screening materials of Jiri Honajzer, chairman of the ODS Club in the Czech parliament, whom he allegedly wanted to compromise. The ODS leadership again proposed Kovar to the post of ODS deputy chairman, but he withdrew his candidacy.

In an interview for CESKY DENIK on February 17, Kovar said that unless his case is solved within the party, he will make public information on the loss of materials from the ODS main office safe last July.

The paper alleged that Kovar may try to misuse his personal notes from the first two meetings of the Czech and Slovak premiers, Vaclav Klaus and Vladimir Meciar, after the June 1992 elections which he attended.

At a press conference today, the deputy chairman of the ODS and of the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech parliament, Jiri Vlach said that he was not surprised by what has been going on around Kovar because he finds his behaviour strange.

In the few past months, I have recorded in him a trend towards intriguing, towards intentionally leaking information to certain channels, and towards information distortion, Vlach said.

In a statement for CTK today, Kovar said this is a subjective assessment which he will not comment.

Environment Minister Opposed To Temelin Completion

AU1902185293 Prague CTK in English 2143 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] Prague Feb 17 (CTK)—Czech Environment Minister Frantisek Benda today said that a definitive decision has not yet been made on the completion of the nuclear power plant at Temelin, South Bohemia, and that if he were to vote on it today, he would vote against it.

Commenting on Tuesday's [16 February] talks of Czech economics ministers on the plant, Benda (Christian Democratic Party, KDS) said that they see the problem with different eyes than him.

Some of them probably think that the completion of Temelin was approved at the meeting, but he considers the meeting only a consultative one, Benda said.

He considers it necessary that the question of a burnt-out fuel dump, not a definitive depot, be resolved alongside with the decision on the plant's completion.

Benda also warned against the combination of modern safety technology, to be supplied by the West, with outdated Soviet-made reactors.

He said he is missing nuclear (atomic) legislation and added that the government should launch such an energy policy that would make the power producer interested in energy saving.

Benda said he is not convinced that all other primary energy resources, like gas and biomass, have been fully appreciated. He pointed to the risk that the funding of Temelin may be adversely reflected in improving the environment in North Bohemia, badly hit by pollutants from thermal power plants.

Surely, Temelin is not the only solution to the situation in North Bohemia, Benda stressed.

According to some government members, the thermal plants in North Bohemia would be closed down if Temelin is put into service.

The nuclear power plant started to be built in 1986. Originally planned as a four-block one, it should have only two blocks if given the green light.

At the economics ministers meeting on Tuesday, the Industry and Trade Ministry was charged with working out a project on the plant's completion. The project is to be submitted to the government on March 10.

* * *

Pavel Seifer, deputy chairman of the parliamentary group of the opposition Liberal Social Union (LSU), today said that Klaus behaved confrontationally when he met with an activist of the ecological movement Duha (Rainbow), Jakub Patocka, during an anti-Temelin demonstration outside the government building on Tuesday.

Seifer said Klaus labelled Patocka one of the terrorists who are exerting undue pressure on the government.

Seifer said he would propose that the Czech Republic's energy policy and Temelin be included in the agenda of the next session of the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech parliament, which opens on Tuesday, February 23.

Police Discover Illegally Held Submachine Guns

AU2202141493 Prague CTK in English 1914 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] Prague Feb 19 (CTK)—Police have discovered another 1,100 machine guns in the storage room of a branch of the former state cooperative Lovena in Ostrava, North Moravia, Czech Police Spokesman Ales Svoboda told CTK today.

Lovena produces and sells hunting equipment.

Svoboda said that the recovery of the illegally possessed weapons was similar to Tuesday's [16 February] police strike in Prague, in which 1,600 machine guns were discovered.

It is the same case. We suspect that it is a matter of illegal weapons trade and illegal possession of weapons, he said.

Svoboda said that the investigation is not yet over. It is possible that weapons will also be found in other places besides Prague or Ostrava, he said.

Lovena chairman Petr Zarda told CTK that he did not believe that the recovered weapons came from his firm's storage. He said that he considers the whole affair to be exaggerated. You must turn to the police and not to us. I don't have anything to say (to the allegations), he said.

Meciar on IMF, Koruna, New President

LD1902212093 Bratislava Rozhlasova Stanica Slovensko Network in Slovak 1700 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Interview with Slovak Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar by editor Zuzana Stukovska; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Stukovska] Prime minister, you are receiving letters from dissatisfied businessmen, farmers, health service workers, and citizens in general. This should constitute enough warning to the government that unless it outlines the economic development priorities soon it may well see a move toward a vote of no confidence. Does the government anticipate such a situation, and is it ready for it?

[Meciar] The question of confidence or no confidence is not an issue with which we would deal in the cabinet and which we would examine as a priority. All these displays of dissatisfaction are only symptoms. The syndrome lies deeper than that. One must tackle the syndrome. It is, above all, the transformation process which is now under way and which has reached a critical stage—something that we predicted and warned of. We also warned that the ability to overcome this critical stage depends on whether political and social peace can be maintained, which would make it possible to resolve fundamental economic and social relations. Unless this happens, the economy and social problems have to be further underwritten [podlozit] and the whole process goes around in circles.

This situation is logical and was expected. Its consequences affects everybody. Naturally certain measures have to be adopted. They involve a revision of the previous course of the economic reform. Measures will have to be adopted which mean that the state administration has to step in, even if some protest over it loudly. Economic intervention has to come in because a general revival is not possible and today no one can even set it as their goal anymore. It is necessary, however, to reverse the situation where everone lacks financial means.

In the past, there was an insolvency of 60 billion korunas which we have inherited. It is still with us and it has grown by a few billions more in the shape of a budget deficit, and a few billions more here and there. Having had to struggle with this situation from the very first days of our government coming to power, it can be said that we have indeed achieved something but it is not enough. Therefore, 1993 will be a year of inevitable changes.

Now for your question as to whether the government will stay. This is a matter of politics, not economy. We see that many other parties and movements have been maliciously feeding off the dissatisfaction. This is neither pro-Slovak nor pro-business even if they try and invite them to take antigovernment action. Therefore, factual problems need to be solved in a factual way and political problems in a political way.

[Stukovska] Slovakia will not move forward without financial injections from the IMF. Mr. Premier, who among the members of the government and parliament has accuate knowledge of the conditions on tie basis of which we have sold our soul, let us say, to the IMF? I am asking this question because alarm has been spreading among famrers that their present catastrophic situation is allegedly linked to the IMF's demand to reduce agricultural production in Slovakia by as much as 40 percent. Do the farmers have any reason to be worried?

[Meciar] In times of uncertainty it is exceptionally important that exact information is available because once no information is available, then rumors, malicious gossip, lies, and bad intentions take over.

There are no conditions outlined for us by the IMF. A group of their experts is travelling throughout Slovakia and studying the situation. They have not drafted their final report yet. It is important that we get a letter of intent from the IMF as this subsequently opens the doors of other banks. However, we cannot accept conditions which would be beyond our economy's limits. [passage omitted]

This government has neither assumed nor signed any obligations.

[Stukovska] Although our public openly discusses the devalution of the Slovak koruna, you prefer the expressions "stabilization of the currency" and "revival of the economy." [passage omitted]

[Meciar] Discussions about the devalution of the currency are unusual. They are a sign of an immature democracy and a failure to understand the principal social relations. I do not say that it is only journalists who should be blamed for this. Blame is to be shared by those state officials who have caused information leaks, leaks of unauthorized information. This automatically forces people to behave as if a devaluation is to take place, to behave as if in the predevaluation period. This means that enterprises speed up their payments abroad, above all because this might mean paying less money, and slow down payments they are to receive from abroad as they know that if devaluation takes place these payments mean higher sums in korunas without the selling price going up.

This pre-devaluation behavior also influences our foreign partners. We had been working on a number of very promissing projects which fell through because of the so-called pre-devaluation behavior. If someone has entertained the thought that now, all of sudden, the IMF will begin to send money to Slovakia, this is not the case. The first help expected from them is to by paid in four installments and its value is $20 million, i.e., we can in fact also help ourselves without the IMF.

Therefore, let me anwer your question by saying that I will not tell you anything.

It is high time now to stop talking publicly about issues linked to financial operations because this causes serious damage to our state's interests. If I say what steps Slovakia intends to take in the sphere of financial operations at present—and if we do take them—then tomorrow those who have different intentions are aware of my intentions and take countermeasures to damage us. Enough damage has already been caused by our own stupidity and our idea that in democracy everything has to be made public. Therefore, I will not answer your question about this subject.

[Stukovska] Although Slovakia has enough problems, there is one reason for celebration; at last, Slovakia has a president. Watchers of the Slovak political scene have tried to read all kinds of innuendo from the photograph in which Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar congratulates President Michal Kovac. Others state that Michal Kovac could be an effective counterweight to government policy. Another group thinks that the election of Michal Kovac is merely a victory of the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia [HZDS] but not, however, one for Slovakia. Which of these views, in your view, is closest to the truth?

[Meciar] None. Any photograph is but a split seond in movement and movement is continuous. And it is not possible to judge what will happen in a moment. Second, the election of Michal Kovac is not only the success of the HZDS but it is mainly an alternative for the stabilization of central bodies. If today, for example, a lot of trouble is addressed to the government, then this is only because there are no alternative activities. The operations of the National Bank of the Slovak Republic are not stabilized, the structuring of the ministries has not yet been completed, other central bodies, including control bodies, have not been completed, some decisions must be made in the military sphere, in the army, and so on. There are a number of factors that have been halted, artificially, by this preelection process and these can now be given new momentum.

As for the press speculation, allow me to remind you that we are a democratic state, a state of law. Presidential powers are stipulated by the constitution, government powers are stipulated by the constitution, and no one can go beyond the constitutional framework. Anybody who speculates otherwise presumes that the president will behave in an unconstitutional way. I believe that Mr. Kovac will never do that.

[Stukovska] The only member of the government absent at the election of the president was Milan Knazko. Was his absence at this event of extraordinary importance for Slovakia linked to your recent request for Minister Knazko to resign?

[Meciar] I cannot say. Mr. Knazko has not explained his absence.

[Stukovska] I have one question in this context. Mr. Premier, why are problems, if any, not solved in the government itself but at caucus meetings and boards? It would be interesting to know what would happen if, in future, you are not satisfied with the work of, say, Economy Minister Cernak. Where would you invite him?

[Meciar] This again is a lack of understanding of the political mechanism which is present in any society. Not one member of the government is in that post as a private person. [passage omitted]

As for the matters discussed inside our political bodies, there is, as you know, an embargo on the information. We had an agreement that nothing would be published. And I do not know who gave the first press conference a couple of minutes after the end of the board meeting which was supposed to be confidential.

[Stukovska] Can you imagine the continuation of cooperation with Minister Knazko or is there already—I do not know what would be the best way to describe it—a shadow foreign ministry? Information about your prepared visit to Brussels was, allegedly, sent to the current Foreign Ministry merely for their information. The same happened with your prepared visit to Moscow which, reportedly, was prepared by the head of the government office.

[Meciar] I refuse to respond to gossip, especially since it is not true.

[Stukovska] On Monday, you will play host to Czech Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus. What has led you to permit nabling him to do something which is quite unusual in diplomatic practice—to address the members of the Slovak Government? Is there a realistic chance that at the meeting in Bratislava you will also sign an agreement on property settlement?

[Meciar] It will depend on what the content of the agreement will be. There is some material that can be regarded as a basis for talks and, after minor alterations, it could be signed. And of course, by signing the agreement, we would resolve a whole complex of Czech-Slovak relations. During the implementation of this complex of relations, problems are arising on both sides. We must talk about these problems. In order to avoid a situation when first individual ministers and then prime ministers hold bilateral talks, Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus will be permitted to address all members of the goverment, to brief them on what is happening on the Czech side, since we cannot rely on this information from the press. This part of Klaus' visit will be open to the press. Then we will sit down together for a while and discuss those issues that we have not quite clarified yet. This part will not be open to the press. Renowned journalists will be invited who will have the right to make a record of his address to the government members.

Meciar Says Economic Policy Aimed at Stability

LD2102204793 Bratislava STV 1 Television Network in Slovak 1810 GMT 21 Feb 93

["Regular" address by Slovak Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar, carried in the "Ten minutes with the Slovak Prime Minister" program—recorded]

[Text] Good evening, esteemed fellow citizens. Each and everyone who lives the busy life of every day can experience and see many manifestations of discontent. On one hand the trade unionists are not content with the way resources for social security are distributed; on the other hand representatives of company trade unions demand more money for the production sector. Farmers who seek financial resources to secure new harvest are also dissatisfied. Businessmen are not satisfied, health care staff are discontent, so are the employers. There are quite a few manifestations of discontent. They all turn to the government. This means that they trust this government and that they rightfully expect from this government that it is the sole agent who can and has to adopt principal measures to improve the status quo.

Obviously, these manifestations of discontent vary. There are people, and they form a majority, who are sincerely interested in resolving essential social problems. However, there are also people who want to be parasites of this social discontent. They would like the discontent with social and economic phenomena to penetrate into the political sphere. Once more I deem it necessary to point out that any shifts of matter-of-fact solutions from economic and social spheres into the political sphere would mean a delay in tackling the substance, i.e., economic relations, and would mean the delay [as heard] and deterioration of the overall situation in Slovakia. Therefore they use all means made available by democracy to protest, to voice disagreement and positions. One has to look at those who instigate you to accept all this. It is not always a matter of pure intention. It is not always the case that people standing in the background will only try to help the Slovak Republic.

As for these manifestations of discontent, of course, we are aware of them. Of course, we deal with them. Our assessment of these manifestations, however, is slightly different from that made by journalists.

First, these matters are on the phenomenal side. They become demonstrated in a certain way, but they are not the cause. The essential cause is the stabilization of the financial, banking and currency system. I am deliberately using the concept of stabilization since many things and problems emerge only because there is a lack of money for credits, for running businesses; there is a lack of money to provide for the basic functioning of the economy.

Since we are saying that these measures should be taken, then they will be taken in a comparatively short period. The government will adopt large-scale measures in the legislative sphere, in the sphere of specific legislative measures aimed, among other things, at management forms and economic structures. In the situation when many companies are in state ownership, even though they are joint stock companies, the state cannot pretend it does not care about them. In the situation, when we are heading toward a market economy, market economy objectives are not contradicted by adoption of measures of administrative nature and measures, the meaning of which will be the so-called state dirigism, which will temporarily introduce restrictions and sanctions for measures contradicting society's interests.

The basic issue you are now debating, concerns the stability of the koruna and devaluation. Many critics are asking in this connection: What is the government doing? Why has it not resolved this situation? I would like to point out that the koruna slovenska has existed only since 8 February. We have made it through the first two weeks without change, and that in itself is a success. This is why we are now talking about the need to stabilize the currency. The discussions that are being waged are unprofessional. They are a form of psychological pressure exerted upon the population and all businesses in order to force on them the idea of the necessity to devalue, so that they would succumb to these pressures and start to behave as if devaluation was about to take place. In part, they are, unfortunately, succeeding. Many companies are speeding up their payments abroad and are slowing down receiving payments from abroad, precisely because they expect the devaluation to take its toll. Many commodity and monetary relations are unclear. We do not know the total volume of goods exchange between the Czech and Slovak republics, we do not know their economic balance. We do not know what will happen when price deformations that existed in these relations are rectified, and what will happen after changes that will ensue not from bad relations but from our need to respond to the insolvency which is of an interstate nature.

We will have to respond to the inevitable structural changes and production programs, which will take place both in Bohemia and in Slovakia. And thus the government will have to accept all these measures and respond to them. That's why at least three to four month are required in order to evaluate the harmony between the flow of goods and money in foreign trade.

This pre-devaluation conduct and the propaganda being carried out are very bad and very damaging for Slovakia. Apart from moral damage it also inflicts material damages. For example, one measure the government quietly carried out in order to stabilize the present situation; we decided to sell the remaining shares in the tobacco industry. The offer by a foreign customer based on the arguments or our media, was by two thirds lower than the previous ones. In the end we made a compromise when the price was only by one third lower. But the loss compared with previous opportunities, amounts to 600 million korunas. Whom should I ascribed it to? To the

government and myself? Similar measures elsewhere can also serve as an evidence that instability breeds yet more instability.

I would now also like to deal with some of the issues of material stocks. The measures which we have to adopt will have a restrictive character. The point is to balance the import revenue with export revenue. If possible, the export revenue should be higher than the import revenue. There are, naturally, many measures to be taken. Devaluation is a textbook case which is supposed to mean that when you devalue and automatically restrict imports, you support exports. It does not always follow, for we would automatically devalue all objects and their prices which we are putting up for privatization. The total loss would be higher than the total gain. Equally, firms would need time to adapt. Devaluation is therefore not a panacea. It is necessary to seek other measures.

The ministries will shortly receive instructions from the government to take extensive anti-import measures and to support exports. It will be necessary to remove and suspend some licences to import goods which you can do perfectly well without. In a situation where we have plenty of butter, and it is Slovak and of good quality, there is no need to import Dutch butter. If we know how to drink Slovak beer, there is no need to import beer from abroad with high surcharges. So much for consumption and investment. How much money was there wasted in the last two years on disproportionate investment? The state has to place the aims of its monetary discipline and financial standard higher.

The measures we will take will be received by all advocates of market economy with the words: You are interfering with the liberalization of the market. Yes, we are indeed, but temporarily, so that the market can be free, so that it can emerge.

Other measures which are being drawn up must be prepared with view to becoming law. We are criticized because even since 1 January, federal laws on the economy are still in force in our country. It is obvious to us that they are biased and run against the government's economic policy in many areas. However, there can only be changes to the whole system instead of jumping from one bit to another. With all due respect to the problems which beset the citizens, and while sympathizing with the pinch everybody is feeling, we have to look for something that concerns everybody. And these are the currency and financial problems.

Working teams have been set up and measures to be presented before both the public and the National Council of the Slovak Republic are being drawn up. The government is aware of its duty, the government works, the government fulfills its duty toward you, esteemed fellow citizens.

In my election campaign speeches and at all the rallies I addressed I always said that we promise sweat and tears, that we promise hard work, that we promise that the government will stay together with citizens in the emerging situation. We have been aware of entering a difficult period and we have relied namely on collective understanding of the situation, collective sharing of decision making and assuming responsibility. The government is shouldering its share and will continue to shoulder it. Therefore I beg you to use both your heart and reason as far as these issues—which are vulnarable to being influenced by various prophecies, rumors, untruths—are concerned.

In the situation when everybody and everything in society is stirred up it is easy to provoke unrest, it is easy to begin fire—but to know how to put it out, and how it can spread—not even those who would like to do so know how to do it.

Therefore, esteemed fellow citizens, I confirm once again that the government's economic policy is aimed at stabilization, is aimed at difficult, unpleasant measures which are harsh for us, too. However, they are inevitable for Slovakia to stop its fall.

In comparison with other countries, it has already become clear that we have done a lot—but not enough to achieve stabilization. Thus you will be informed about the range of these measure in the next few days.

Thank you. I am looking forward to meeting you the next time.

Koruna Worth Less in Prague Than in Bratislava

AU1902190693 Prague CTK in English 1348 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] Prague/Bratislava Feb 16 (CTK)—While the Slovak crown (SK) continued to fall against the Czech crown (KC) at Prague banks yesterday, as Czech financial institutions anticipated the Slovak crown's imminent devaluation, the Slovak currency continued to hold at 1:1 parity with the Czech currency in Bratislava trading today.

In Bratislava, the Slovak crown held steady today, with a purchasing price for 1 KC around 0.90 SK and a selling price around 1.20 SK, making for a median value of 1.00 KC for 1 SK.

In Prague yesterday, 1 SK was being purchased at between 0.82 and 0.86 KC and sold at between 0.86 and 0.91 KC, with a median value between 0.85 and 0.885 KC.

Bank Official: Currency Situation Requires Action

AU1902150693 Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES in Czech 18 Feb 93 p 14

[Interview with Marian Jusko, vice governor of the Slovak National Bank, by Petr Simunek; place and date not given: "No Decision on Devaluation Has Been Made"]

[Text] [Simunek] The Slovak National Bank [NBS] has prevented from publishing data on its foreign exchange reserves. Do you believe their present level provides an stimulus to devalue the Slovak currency?

[Jusko] I will not give you a direct reply. At its meeting last week the NBS Bank Council decided that it was necessary to enter into consultations with government officials on the monetary development. Vice Governor Marian Tkac sent a letter to this effect to Prime Minister Meciar.

[Simunek] But your view of monetary development is quite different from that of Mr. Tkac.

[Jusko] The position of the entire bank is unequivocal at present.

[Simunek] What is this position?

[Jusko] The position is that we must react to the present monetary development in some way. You can deduce from my words that I am thinking of devaluation. But there are other means of influencing monetary development, such as an import surcharge or higher customs duties. We are going to discuss these issues with the Ministry of Finance.

[Simunek] Am I correct in saying that right now you refuse to state clearly whether the bank will or will not support devaluation?

[Jusko] Yes.

[Simunek] An IMF mission is currently in Slovakia. How does it assess monetary developments and how far have the talks progressed on the possible extension of a loan to prop up foreign exchange reserves?

[Jusko] The IMF recommends that we set the exchange rate on the basis of floating rates (that is, in simplified terms, according to the current market situation—author's note). We, on the other hand, are of the opinion that a fixed exchange rate is more suitable for us right now. As for the stabilization loan, it could be provided in April at the earliest.

[Simunek] When in your view will a decision be made on how to stabilize the monetary situation in Slovakia?

[Jusko] The situation can be influenced by immediate decisions of an administrative nature, such as the introduction of an import surcharge. It could also be improved by progress of privatization. In the coming days we expect to collect a significant amount of foreign exchange from the sale of one large company to a foreign client. Our decision could also be facilitated by the report of the IMF mission as an independent professional institution.

Nuclear Safety Official Denies Austrian Weekly's Claims

AU1902150293 Prague CTK in English 1108 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] Bratislava Feb 16 (CTK)—The head of the Slovak Nuclear Safety Commission, Jozef Misak, told CTK today that a Chernobyl-type catastrophe at the Jaslovske-Bohunice nuclear power plant in west Slovakia is impossible.

Misak rejected concerns expressed in the Austrian weekly NEWS that Bohunice presents a potential threat. He stressed that the Chernobyl accident was similar to a nuclear bomb explosion, which could not happen at the Bohunice plant, given the design of the V-1 and V-2 reactors. He denied that the Slovak plant had suffered frequent breakdowns or that special plans were in the works to extend its operations to the year 2005. This period is the (normal) life span of the plant, he said.

Misak said another nuclear power plant, in Mochovce, West Slovakia would be completed to meet accepted nuclear power standards.

Slovakia doesn't even fill its own electrical energy needs, so I think it unlikely that it would, perhaps secretly, export that energy, Misak responded to a question by CTK.

The Austrian weekly alleged in a February 11 article that the Bohunice plant presents a permanent danger due to unreliability of its safety system. The article also alleges that there exist secret agreements to provide Austria with electrical energy from Temelin.

President Relieves, Appoints Ministers

LD1902190393 Budapest MTI in English 1757 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] Budapest, February 19 (MTI)—At the proposal of Prime Minister Jozsef Antall, the president of the republic relieved, as of February 22, 1993 with simultaneous recognition for his merits, Dr. Gyorgy Schamschula of his post as political secretary of state at the Ministry of Labour, appointing him minister of transport, telecommunications, and water management.

Ferenc Madl was relieved of his post as minister without portfolio, and appointed minister of culture and education.

With effect from February 23, 1993, Dr. Janos Gyurko was appointed minister of environmental protection and regional development, and Dr. Janos Szabo, minister of agriculture.

At the prime minister's proposal, the president of the republic relieved Laszlo Sarossy of his post as political secretary of state at the Ministry of Agriculture, and Dr. Erno Raffay as political secretary of state at the Ministry of Defence, at their own request, with simultaneous recognition for their merits, as of February 22, 1993.

At the prime minister's proposal, the president of the republic appointed Dr. Laszlo Medgyasszay political secretary of state at the Ministry of Agriculture, Dr. Laszlo Szendrei political secretary of state at the Ministry of Defence, Dr. Tihamer Toth political secretary of state at the Ministry of Labour, and Dr. Pal Becker political secretary of state at the Ministry of Finance.

Dr. Tibor Pongracz was relieved of his post as political secretary of state at the Ministry of Finance as of February 22, 1993, with simultaneous recognition for his merits, and at the same time appointed titular secretary of state to take part in performing governmental tasks relating to privatisation under the guidance of Minister Without Portfolio Dr. Tamas Szabo.

Prime Minister Discusses Government Reshuffle

LD2102213293 Budapest MTV Television Network in Hungarian 1820 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Interview with Prime Minister Jozsef Antall by correspondent Peter Feledy during "The Week" program;" date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Feledy] Mr. Prime Minister, can you tell me something about the secrets and background of the government reshuffles.
[Antall] [passage omitted] The experiences of the past two and one half years played a role as have the changes of the political mood between the parties of the coalition partners. We paid attention to public opinion, the press, and the parliamentary and ministerial work. Ministers can also become tired or in a new place they may be expected to work with greater energy. [passage omitted]

[Feledy] What are the decisive criteria for selecting personnel? You have been repeatedly criticized for saying that professional skill is second, third, or even fourth ranking criterion when allocating a ministerial or state secretarial post. I have even read that political reliability prevails above everything.

[Antall] In a political democracy the first consideration is naturally...[changes thought] One consideration is political agreement with the political party as a politician, which does not mean dilettantism and cowboy-type work but which is necessary for teamwork. The other consideration is the issue of trust, professional knowledge. [passage omitted] A minister does not have to know in detail about lucerne production or other things, but as a politician he must see it in a comprehensive way, from a government point of view. [passage omitted]

[Feledy] I quote a journalist colleague of mine who said that the Hungarian Democratic Forum [MDF] and the government are endeavoring to move into the center again. He meant by this that you tried to cut the shoots of extremes—if such existed in the government—and rather gave positions to those who belong to the MDF center.
[Antall] It has been a centrist party to this date, right from its formation. [passage omitted] In other words, the personnel changes did not take place from this point of view. [passage omitted]

[Feledy] To what extent has the third Antall government's policy, strategy, tactics modified since the new team composition?
[Antall] The government is continuing the program it declared when it introduced itself, the one it published under the title "National Renewal," the one it has been carrying out in implementing the program known as the Kupa program, which it must continue within today's circumstances, today's era. [passage omitted]

It was unavoidable that as a result of a more open relationship with Europe and the world foreign goods are appearing; there is a wide offer of goods. It resulted in the disadvantage that it caused a certain setback in Hungarian goods reaching the market, however. We now must intervene in this, within market conditions with appropriate market methods. It is an impossible situation—as I have said elsewhere—that pensioners, large families, or anybody else cannot find Hungarian goods they are used to finding in a shop, an impossible situation when the Hungarian market is not a market for the Hungarian producer. [passage omitted]

[Feledy] Please allow me to return to the issue of social tension. Although you are absolutely right from an economic approach, do you think you will be able to convince, to win over the masses of pensioners who can hardly make both ends meet from their incomes, the youths who are beginning their careers and are trying to create their existence under extreme hardships, the hundreds of thousands of unemployed people?

[Antall] It is very difficult to reply to this, on which only the elections will decide. All I can say is that we will do our best to make sure that these masses do not fall behind. As a result of the extension and in a sense the stratification of material welfare, which is concommitant with market economy, it is quite often those entrepreneurs who are abusing the government excessively who are nowadays living under the best conditions. [passage omitted] Nevertheless, we have to endeavor to win over the entrepreneurs too; that is, they understand that they will be able to continue with their businesses and achieve good results under our government. We have to stop the middle strata from falling behind; on the contrary, we have to reverse this and make sure that no stratum falls behind, or we can support those strata that do fall behind. It is necessary to deal with a separate social policy. We cannot do without social policy proper. This was one of the big lies of the communist regime. Yet it is economic policy that provides the basis for good social policy.

[Feledy] Mr. Prime Minister, there has been a change of presidents in the United States, and instead of a party that had been in power for a long time the other came into power. Many people think that the masses needed some kind of change of generations in the U.S. leadership. Clinton is much younger than his predecessor. What is the situation concerning this issue in Hungary? Don't you think that intellectuals, professionals belonging to the middle generation should be involved in the government and leadership?
[Antall] I can mention that the average age of our government has been equal to that of the Clinton government; that is, 51-53, but the age of our political state secretaries include people of 40 and the administrative state secretaries who came from the ministerial staffs of over 30 or 40 are even younger. [passage omitted]

We do not wish to sit in the parliament, not even in the government until the end of our lives as senile schlerotic politicians.

[Feledy] Let us go on to the estimation of Hungary's foreign political situation. I have in my hand the letter that President Bush addressed to you at the time of his departure from the presidential seat. [passage omitted]
[Antall] I believe that in politics personal friendship and mutual appreciation are just as significant as in other areas of life. [passage omitted]

[Feledy] What does the country benefit from this?
[Antall] The country benefits a huge amount. Among other things, it benefits as to its security from the fact that these countries are on our side. From this we benefit as to the direct links in the relationship with the EC, in relations with NATO, and apart from this in the credit policy steps, in the economic measures, in the PHARE [Poland, Hungary Assistance for Economic Restructuring] programs, in assistance, in the talks with the World Bank and the IMF, where all this plays a role; and naturally, in the fact that they consider Hungary to be the most stable country in the region. [passage omitted]

Justice Official Discusses Provision Laws

AU1902174793 Budapest MAGYAR HIRLAP in Hungarian 18 Feb 93 p 8

[Interview with Frigyes Kahler, head of department at the Justice Ministry, by Karoly Lencses; place and date not given: "Provision of Justice: Regular Soldiers Cannot Be Made Responsible"]

[Text] On 16 February, Parliament enacted two laws on the provision of justice. According to Frigyes Kahler, there are no overlaps between the law submitted by the government and the one submitted by Zsolt Zetenyi. The two laws do not apply to the same legal circumstances. According to Kahler, it will be up to the judges to decide whether the more serious war crime and, thus, the statue of limitations apply in a case, or whether he examines the legal fact of statutory limitation according to the solution proposed by Zetenyi and proceeds accordingly.

[Kahler] The Hungarian Government's proposal on the provision of justice declares in two areas what the valid Hungarian penal regulations are, on the basis of which, among other things, the most serious crimes committed in 1956 can be prosecuted. The laws now enacted by Parliament direct attention to certain ministerial decrees enacted by the 1945/VII law on judging war crimes. In addition to retrospectively qualifying certain acts committed during World War II as crimes, regarding the future, it also contains that it is a war crime when someone carries out activities that are suitable for breaking the peace or cooperation of people after the war or for creating international discord.

[Lencses] In other words, the law only declares a legal source on the basis of which certain acts can be prosecuted.
[Kahler] Yes, this is it but these can only be serious crimes that threaten with the above consequences.

[Lencses] In this respect, is a time limit included in the law's title, namely that it is on proceedings relating to certain crimes committed in the course of the 1956 events?
[Kahler] This law has been in force since 1945; therefore, it can also be applied to the events in 1968. At a conference in Pecs, however, it was also suggested that certain people might have been part of acts in Africa or in other places that were possibly suitable for evoking the above consequences. But it is the task of the people who apply the law to judge whether given acts in 1956 or at other times constituted such war crimes.

[Lencses] Does this mean that the title does not mean anything?
[Kahler] No, because it expresses on what legal basis certain acts committed in connection with 1956 can be judged. This is needed because, in the past, jurists were uncertain about legal violations committed during the revolution.

[Lencses] Is this then a special law that is none other than the interpretation of a legal rule?
[Kahler] If we disregard the procedural section on the competence of the Budapest Attorney Department's Investigating Office and the Budapest Court, we can indeed talk about a law that interprets a legal rule.

[Lencses] This appears to be a rather unusual solution.
[Kahler] It is indeed unusual, but there are examples in other places, too. For example, the German Parliament laid down the interpretation of the rules of the statute of limitation in a law for similar reasons.

[Lencses] What are the actual crimes that can be prosecuted on the basis of the first section of the law?
[Kahler] The person who initiated the invitation of the Soviet troops may come under this law.

[Lencses] Or the person who decided on the 1968 invasion.
[Kahler] Yes, because the law does not only apply to 1956, but the judge will have to deliberate on whether the given person was in a position to make an independent decision and whether the act was suitable for creating international dispute.

[Lencses] Am I right in thinking that the second paragraph of the law can only be applied to 1956?
[Kahler] First of all, we have to state that the Geneva conventions on treating prisoners of war and protecting the civilian population only came into force in 1955; therefore, the second paragraph of the law cannot be applied to previous periods. At the same time, this section talks about crimes that can only be committed in warlike conditions. In 1956, it happened that captured rebels were shot dead, disregarding the law of wars.

[Lencses] Or rebels killed captured supporters of the regime. Does this law also apply to these acts?
[Kahler] Such a case is also possible, but let me emphasize that the law does not give privilege to either side; therefore, if there is a rebel who was not punished for such an act, he can be called to justice now.

[Lencses] The volley fires stirred the emotions most, but who can be made responsible: the soldier who pulled the trigger, the officer who commanded, or the general or politician who formulated the order?
[Kahler] The regular soldiers cannot be made responsible because, let us remember, according to the regulations, the officer could have shot his man dead if he had refused the order; therefore, now we can only make those people accountable who could have refused the order against the people without risking their own life. An example makes this clearer: A MiG-15 took off with the order to disperse the demonstrators in Tiszakecske. The plane attacked and the pilot shot into the singing crowd. There were a number of casualties and injuries. This pilot—who is now dead—could obviously have avoided shooting or only have given warning shots and would have achieved the desired goal. We can also include those people in this group who participated in torturing others. [Lencses] The Zetenyi law wants to condemn criminals from 1945 to the change of the regime, but there is an overlap between the two rules because the person who is a criminal according to the government's proposal is also a criminal according to the other rule. In such a case, which rule applies?
[Kahler] If the war crime included in the government's proposal took place, this rule has to be followed.

[Lencses] Does this mean that if the state security department murdered someone at the beginning of the 1950's, this can only be prosecuted on the basis of the Zetenyi law?
[Kahler] Precisely. Therefore, in this sense, there is no overlap between the two laws. As a matter of fact, it will also be up to the judge to determine whether the more serious war crime and the statute of limitation applies in a case or whether he examines the legal fact of the statute of limitation according to the solution proposed by Zetenyi and proceeds on this basis.

[Lencses] In this case it is possible, however, that one mass murderer will be condemned and another will not be.
[Kahler] If the statue of limitation does not apply and the judge is unable to establish beyond a reasonable doubt why the state had not complied with its obligation to prosecute crimes, it is possible. In this case, naming before the court is the only option left.

Foreign Minister Comments on Security Policy

LD2102120693 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 0805 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Interview with Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky by unidentified correspondent from the "World Clock" program; place and date not given—recorded;]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] The National Assembly started to debate the draft proposal about the basic principles of the security policy of the Republic on 16 February [passage omitted]

Geza Jeszenszky gave a report about security policy principles during the National Assembly debate. First, I asked him to what extent Hungarian citizens can sleep better knowing that this document was adopted by the National Assembly.

[Begin recording] [Jeszenszky] If any of the citizens followed the debate on television, it is possible that he or she did not find it terribly exciting, despite the fact that very important and wise words were said. It was precisely this debate that gave me the impression, however, that the people can sleep better because it indicated that there is a wide consensus among the six political parties and the independents. This, in itself, indicates that the country agrees on a very basic question.

By all means, this strengthens our position, vis-a-vis our neighbors, if you like, and also in the eyes of the West. It is my conviction that it will bring about the necessary response; thus, it represents a kind of capital for us.

[Correspondent] To what extent does this improve the scope of movement of the government?

[Jeszenszky] This is not about the government. I and others have also emphasized that party political viewpoints have to take the back row in basic national questions. Its practical significance, however, is that this joint stance not only diminishes but prevents the possibility of somebody in the neighborhood or elsewhere trying to divide Hungarian politics. It also prevents another party or trend from speaking differently on this fundamental question. [passage omitted]

At the same time, we know very well that security not only has military aspects. We also know that security can be served, first and foremost, by political means, with relations, good neighborliness, and with the strengthening of the system of relations developed with European institutions. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] One more question. A proposal was heard in the debate that a referendum could be organized about whether Hungary should ask for admittance into NATO? What are your first impressions about this?

[Jeszenszky] I can imagine this when the conditions for admittance will be ripe. This is not a unilateral question. Just like in a marriage, the agreement of two parties is necessary. It is not about the West being ungenerous or that it does not want to give us guarantees. They have already indicated unequivocally, with very many words and deeds, that they consider the security of Hungary—I could say the territorial integrity of Hungary—as part of the security of the West. We have to know, however, that this issue is not only about when the conditions for full membership can materialize. It is only part of a process. It is also about the fact that we are not the only ones.

I agree with the speech that was delivered during the debate that Hungary does not strive to join the West on her own—let us say, to secure herself— but to do this together with our neighbors. The existence of Hungarian minorities in neighboring countries proves also that we did not want to be separated from our neighbors by an iron curtain or a curtain of prosperity. Conditions should be as good over there as in our country. Furthermore, we also have an international responsibility.

We also know how important it is that our Eastern neighbors remain in the framework that has developed in the past one to two years regarding the closely coordinated foreign policy with NATO and generally with the Western democracies. We are ready to wait longer if necessary, regarding realization of a certain kind of formal guarantee, because we know the importance of the fact that no discrimination should exist here. [end recording]

Government Considering Measures on Gabcikovo

LD1902135393 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1100 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] The Hungarian Government is considering—more precisely, it is planning—to improve the water supplies of Szigetkoez by means of unilateral measures that have not been coordinated with the Slovaks to avoid a complete catastrophe. Environmental Protection Minister-designate Janos Gyurko has spoken to our program. The correspondent is Krisztina Antalffy.

[Begin recording] [Gyurko] My feeling is that we need by all means to put this issue—the extraction of the water necessary to replace the water in Szigetkoez—before the National Assembly and to ask for its opinion, because the National Assembly's resolution [to abrogate the 1977 treaty on the Gabcikovo water barrage] can be interpreted as being very rigorous and as contradicting the water-replacement solution proposed by the water management directorate of northern Transdanubia [eszakdunantuli vizuegyi igazgatosag].

Another consideration is that the changes, demolition, and reconstruction in the system of river branches will be carried out exclusively in Hungarian territory. These can safely be done; no one has any objection to this.

In my view, however, the partial operation of the sluice at Dunakiliti, which is not according to the original plan but is linked with the damming up of a channel by the construction of a wing-dam [keresztgat], requires, on the one hand, the taking of a stance by the Hungarian National Assembly, and second we must at least tell the Slovak side where and what kind of work we will do in the joint channel. This will occur in the Danube subcommittee of the border waters committee.

Mr. State Secretary Janos Martonyi stated in Brussels that we will take unilateral damage-limitation measures, interim measures.

[Antalffy] As future minister of environmental protection, do you consider these planned measures to be necessary?
[Gyurko] I do consider them necessary, but nothing should be done rashly.

[Antalffy] You said it is necessary to consult with the Slovak side on this issue.
[Gyurko] We thought that since the Slovak side has put us in an extremely difficult situation, and because we have to avert a complete catastrophe, we do not wish to coordinate [egyeztetni] with them, but we will announce what we intend to do and when, on an interim basis, simply to reduce any damage to ourselves.

We do not want to comply completely with the relevant border waters agreement—it is true that it speaks of an obligation to seek coordination—because we felt that the current political situation, the foreign political situation, the whole Boes [Gabcikovo] issue do not make it necessary or possible for us, without impairing our prestige, to

approach them to ask about any damage-limitation measures we can take in the terrible situation they have caused.

[Antalffy] Can this position not be dealt with under international law?
[Gyurko] Yes, it can be dealt with, but the diversion of a border river can be dealt with in the same way, under international law, because it is laid down in a peace treaty [of Trianon, in 1920] that the border follows the center line of the navigable main route. [end recording]

Budget Deficit Stands at 17.3 Billion Forints

LD2202123393 Budapest MTI in English 1147 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Text] Budapest, February 22 (MTI)—Hungary's central budget deficit in January was HUF [Hungarian forints] 17.3 billion.

In the first month of the year, revenues totalled HUF 70.6 billion, expenditure HUF 87.9. The deficit that came about through this is HUF 1.9 billion less than in January of 1992. But it is 1.1 percentage points higher than the time-proportionate.

Both revenue and expenditure were higher than in January 1992. The revenue rise is HUF 14.2 billion, expenditure rise only HUF 12.4 billion. Revenue lags behind the time-proportionate level by 0.9, expenditure by 0.6 percentage points.

In January, most of the state budget deficit was covered by provisional use of state working funds. Alongside this, the stock of securities increased by HUF 1.7 billion.

Securities stock growth came about by the issue of state bonds in the first month of the year, which brought in HUF 20.7 billion, while the bond stock declined by HUF 19.3 billion.

16 to 17 Percent Inflation Expected This Year

LD1902164793 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1100 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] At his regular briefing, the government spokesman said today that the Cabinet expects a 16 to 17 percent rise in prices this year. Gabor Bankuti reports.

[Bankuti] Short-term market protection measures are necessary for Hungary's industry, until the crisis phenomena are overcome within the frameworks enabled by our international agreements, Janos Miklos Latorcai, industry and commerce minister-designate, stated. Later, it will be necessary to protect only industry, which means making Hungarian industry competitive.

Since agriculture must become a productive branch again by the end of the decade, it will be necessary to reinstate the manufacture of modern agricultural and food industry machinery. According to the minister-designate, the number of those working in industry should decrease by 100,000 after the structural transformation and modernization. The development of services can ensure work opportunities, however, for those people who are released.

According to Environmental Protection Minister-designate Janos Gyurko, the ministry has scant financial resources. The greatest result can be achieved by economic regulation, if this propels the protagonists of economic life toward environmental interests. He mentioned, by way of example, the call for packaging materials to be collected again, as is the case abroad. He also mentioned that the import of foreign technology which pollutes the environment should be banned.

In January, prices went up by 6.8 percent as compared with December. According to Janos Cinkotai, chief counsellor to the government, this is primarily a result of the increase in turnover and consumer tax as well as central measures. Free prices went up by scarcely more than 2.5 percent, which is greater than expected, but does not exceed the increase of several previous years. In his view, it is too early to engage in estimates for the year, but the government is reckoning on an increase of 16-17 percent, and this appears realistic now, all the more so because the restrictions of demand probably will thwart many intentions to force prices up.

The government adopted a new version of the bill on the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. According to this, the Academy is a public self-governing body which means it is entirely independent of the government. It assumes certain tasks from the state; it sometimes reports on the utilization of the material means necessary for this.

Attending the general assembly are not only academicians, but 50 researchers delegated or chosen by the institutions. The Academy will have original stock; however, the research institutes will remain in state ownership, but the Exchequer will hand them over to the Academy for use.

CSCE Minorities Commissioner Pays Visit 19 Feb

Meets With Antall

LD1902182493 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1700 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] Prime Minister Jozsef Antall has held talks with the CSCE high commissioner on minorities, who is in Budapest. Dora Adorjan reports.

[Adorjan] At the talks between Jozsef Antall and Max van der Stoel, there was no mention of specific problems nor of the situation of minorities living here. They both regarded the meeting as significant. The prime minister drew a European historic panorama for the CSCE high commissioner on minorities. After the discussion, he said that today's meetings gave him a comprehensive

picture of the new mechanism that can play a part in resolving the minority issue, but it is too early to speak in more detail.

Meets With Officials

LD1902202493 Budapest Duna TV in Hungarian 1745 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] Max van der Stoel, CSCE high commissioner for national minorities, held talks today in Budapest with Andras Kelemen, state secretary for foreign affairs; Geza Entz, chairman of the Office for Hungarians Beyond the Border; and Janos Wolfart, chairman of the Office for National and Ethnic Minorities. During the meeting, which was held at Hungary's request, Entz informed the high commissioner that agreements improving the situation of Hungarian minorities had already been reached with Croatia, Slovenia, and the Ukraine. The politician said that the government firmly supported the democratic endeavors of the minority organizations of the Hungarians living beyond the border.

Wolfart gave a briefing about the situation of the minorities in Hungary, the forms of cooperation with their organizations, and the draft of the Hungarian minority law, which is in preparation. According to van der Stoel, good use can be made of Hungarian nationality policy practice. He said: Establishing an international foundation to improve the situation of the gypsies in central Eastern Europe is intended.

Russian Security Director Cited on Talks

LD2002210693 Budapest MTI in English 1812 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] Budapest, February 20 (MTI)—Russian security service director Yevgeniy Primakov gave an interview to the Hungarian daily "PESTI HIRLAP" about his recent talks in Budapest.

During his first trip to eastern Europe, he held talks with Hungarian secret service chiefs, and also met Prime Minister Jozsef Antall.

About his discussion with Antall, Primakov said, "Links between secret services broke at the time of the political changes, but now we have found that our interests are common in a number of areas. Cooperation is essential in checking nuclear material exports to countries in crisis zones. Jozsef Antall has a profound knowledge of the region's problems, which we now discussed in great detail."

Asked about any new relations between the two secret services, Primakov said, "There is nothing of this kind. We have signed no such document."

Answering a question on the Bosnian crisis, Primakov pointed out, "I don't believe in a quick solution. If for some reason settlement was by military and not political means, war would in no way stay local."

Walesa Signs 1993 Budget Law

LD2202132893 Warsaw PAP in English 1255 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Text] Warsaw, Feb. 22—President Lech Walesa on Monday [22 February] signed the Polish Government's 1993 budget, the presidential press office announced on Monday.

The bill was passed by the Senate (Upper House) on Friday.

Senate Adopts 1993 Budget With No Amendments

AU2202122493 Warsaw PAP in English 1916 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] Warsaw, Feb. 19—The Senate (upper house) today passed the 1993 budget law in the version previously adopted by the Sejm, with 54 senators voting for, 19 against and 5 abstaining. At this stage of the legislative process the budget law needs to be finally signed by the president.

The budget law envisages a 81-trillion-zloty ($5 billion) deficit in 1993, which accounts for 5 percent of the gross national product. The state revenue is estimated at 433.5 trillion zlotys, while spending is estimated at 514.5 trillion.

Income from taxes will constitute the main source of the budget revenue with the turnover tax and value added tax generating 178 trillion zlotys and personal income tax 109 trillion.

Sejm Bans Tobacco, Alcohol Advertising

LD1902231593 Warsaw PAP in English 2242 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] Warsaw, Feb. 19—The Sejm (lower house) on Friday overwhelmingly passed a controversial bill which will impose a complete ban on advertisments for tobacco and alcohol products in Poland.

The "law to prevent and combat unfair competition" was passed by 225 votes to 93, with 30 abstentions.

The law provides for fines or custodial sentences for any breaches of the law, which defines unfair competition as any activity contrary to law or good practices. An amendment was also passed, banning advertising of medicines available only on subscription.

The Sejm's decision to totally ban tobacco and alcohol ads was strongly crticized by the parliamentary caucus of the Polish Liberal Programme (PPL) which said that it not only ran counter to Poland's economic interests but also had no chance of being carried out.

"The ban will cause a slump in demand for Polish products and a sharp growth of imports. It will also make foreign producers withdraw from investing in Poland," the PPL's statement stressed.

The PPL had earlier supported the proposals of Sejm committees allowing for limited tobacco and alcohol advertising combined with information on health hazards.

Meanwhile, the National Union of Tobacco Growers objected on Friday to the establishment of state monopoly in tobacco industry. "This is the road leading to the destruction of tobacco growing and the entire branch of that industry in Poland," head of the union's office Ryszard Piatek told a press conference in Warsaw on Friday.

He said Polish tobacco growers wanted speedy privatization of tobacco industry in which the greater part of shares should be held by farmers. According to the union the Sejm's resolution of February 12, ordering the introduction of tobacco monopoly hampers the development of tobacco industry and tobacco growing farms.

During its Friday debate the Sejm adopted the Senate's (upper house) motion to reject an amendment to the law on personal income tax which sought to exempt from the tax means at the disposal of factory social funds and trade union funds, paid as relief benefits to the employees.

The Sejm also adopted today an amendment to the law on public roads which introduces tolls for drivers using highways and express ways.

The chamber also elected Ferdynand Rymarz (53, no party affiliation) to the post of the constitutional tribunal's judge. Rymarz's candidature won the support of 203 deputies while the candidature of his rival to the post Andrzej Wasilewski won the backing of 125 MPs [members of parliament].

Senate Wants Joint Taxation for Married Couples

LD1902212393 Warsaw PAP in English 2050 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] Warsaw, Feb. 19—The upper house (Senate) passed an amendment to the income tax law on Friday [19 February] which allows for married couples to be taxed jointly and gives the same right to single parent families.

The Senate "froze" the taxation scale so that it would remain the same as last year's, a measure proposed by the government but earlier rejected by the Sejm (lower house).

The Senate passed an amendment introducing tax relief for the parents of children educated outside the state sector.

However the amendment removing financial liability from company partners for company tax obligations was rejected by the senators.

In the evening the Senate debated amendments to the bill on combatting alcoholism. One issue which raised a

lot of argument was the Sejm's proposal to exclude beer from the alcoholic beverages whose sale is to be controlled by local councils. The debate will resume on Saturday morning.

Sejm Hears Reports on Lodz Region, Others

LD2002213693 Warsaw PAP in English 2001 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] Warsaw, Feb. 20—Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Policy Michal Boni told the lower house of parliament Saturday [20 February] that the government will appoint its commissioner for the Lodz region in the coming weeks.

The post has been created as a result of strong pressure from the Lodz Solidarity and other trade unions which demanded speeding up work on the restructuring of the region suffering from high unemplyoment and heavy reliance on the textile industry.

Boni also informed the deputies on government actions taken to date to implement the agreement signed last January with the Lodz Solidarity and concerning the restructuring programme. His report met with criticism from deputies representing the opposition and the Solidarity Sejm caucus. The chamber will vote to accept or reject the report at its next session scheduled for 3 March.

Deputy Minister of Education Anna Urbanowicz presented the government stand on the collective dispute started recently by trade unions affiliating teachers and other workers of the educational sector and declared it was unfair to hold the government responsible for decisions dictated by the binding legislation.

She said educational workers suffered financially because of the budget, railway fares, pays for salaried state employees and some other acts passed by parliament in recent months. "By passing these acts the parliament has foreclosed decisions by the government," Urbanowicz claimed.

She also told the deputies that next week a team headed by the Minister of Labour Jacek Kuron would start talks with the trade unions concerned.

Another government report presented to the Sejm Saturday concerned actions taken to improve the health condition of children and teenagers. Deputy Minister of Labour Joanna Starega-Piasek proposed, among other things, that family allowances for the upbringing of children be paid out to every family whose per capita income is lower than 60 percent of the average wage. This would represent a major change from the present regulations which envisage allowances only for those covered by social insuarance. The minister did not propose any date for introducing the change.

Miners Spokesman Warns Sejm on Tax Decision

LD1902203493 Warsaw Third Program Radio Network in Polish 1600 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] The Senate has come out in favor of joint taxation for married couples. [Word indistinct] was the fundamental cause of yesterday's protest in Silesia. Adam Jawor, the spokesman of the mining strike committee, warned today that if the Sejm again makes a decision which makes joint taxation impossible then an open ended general strike will be declared in Silesia.

Piotrkow Solidarity Maintains Strike Alert

LD1902190793 Warsaw PAP in English 1842 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] Piotrkow Trybunalski, Feb. 19—The Presidium of the Board of the Piotrkow Solidarity Chapter resolved to maintain a strike alert in the province despite the fact that road blockades were removed on Friday [19 February] afternoon.

Eight roads leading to the town were blocked for one hour by over 50 vehicles bearing flags with Solidarity emblems.

The Piotrkow Solidarity demands that the provincial governor be dismissed and the province be recognized as the region especially threatened with unemployment.

They urged that a report on the economic situation of the province be presented and that the programme of the restructuring of industry in the region be worked out and implemented.

In case the government does not react to these demands the Solidarity threatens with the intensification of protest actions.

Press spokesman of the Piotrkow Province Police Headquarters Arkadiusz Pawelczyk declared the road blockade illegal.

Gdansk Union Wants Pro-Budget Deputies Out Of Solidarity

AU1902143793 Warsaw PAP in English 1423 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] Gdansk, Feb. 17—The Presidium of the "Solidarity" Factory Commission at the Gdansk-based "Stocznia Gdanska" shipyard sent a request to the Solidarity National Commission asking that the 16 Solidarity deputies who voted in favor of the 1993 government budget last Friday [12 February] be expelled from the Sejm floor group for disregarding the National Commission's explicit instructions to vote against the budget.

The dismissal move includes Bogdan Borusewicz and Jan Rulewski the parliamentary club leaders, deputy chairman of the shipyard Solidarity Commission Karol Guzikewicz said on Wednesday.

Moczulski Appeals for Walesa Veto on Budget

LD1902232493 Warsaw PAP in English 2250 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] Warsaw, Feb. 19—Confederation for an Independent Poland (KPN) leader Leszek Moczulski appealed to President Lech Walesa on Friday [19 February] to refuse to sign the budget for 1993 into law.

The KPN leader considers that the budget is unconstitutional and illegal.

Moczulski stressed that the budget attacks "the civic right to exist on a level where basic needs are met."

He added that by refusing to sign Walesa would be opening "a new opportunity for the process of Poland's recovery."

Drzycimski Explains Walesa Position on Budget

LD1902130793 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish 1105 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] President Lech Walesa will not sign the budget law if it does not take into consideration the expectations of strikers in Silesia. Minister Andrzej Drzycimski, the presidential spokesman, explains.

[Begin Drzycimski recording] Why? Because although the president has no part in the discussion of the budget, he is strongly in favor of developing the economy in such a way as to avoid the risk of sudden destabilization. We can already see what is happening in Silesia, and not only there but also in other enterprises.

The budget, which has not yet been approved [by the Senate] is causing an increase of social tensions. One must clearly add that elimination of joint taxation hits many families, particularly where there is only one breadwinner. The president favors a solution which will meet those social expectations. He thinks it necessary, first to protect the country from unnecessary social tensions, and second to warn the Senate, which is currently discussing the budget, to finish its work quickly and to pass its remarks and amendments to the Sejm, because a three-month period expires tomorrow. The president's remarks are a reminder that he wants to keep to this three-month period.

The state has been without a budget for three months and the government's hands are tied. Instead of decisions being made, endless discussions are going on. Poland is waiting for solutions, and the president, despite the complexity of situation, must watch the stability of the state. This fragile stability could be threatened by the fact that the budget law has not been adopted, and the result could be a serious political crisis. The president has made his opinion clear so that it is unmistakably received by all those making decisions on this matter at the moment. [end recording]

[Announcer] That was Minister Andrzej Drzycimski, the presidential spokesman.

Budget Surplus To Go to State Wages

AU1902145493 Warsaw PAP in English 2133 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] Warsaw, Feb. 17—Prime Minister Hanna Suchocka, during a meeting today with "Solidarity" leader Marian Krzaklewski and representatives of public-sector sections of the union, assured that in case of a budgetary surplus the extra funds will be earmarked for the increase in remunerations of budget-paid employees.

Suchocka declared the government's readiness to negotiate on the issue but within the limits of existing law and available financial means, as Suchocka's press secretary Zdobyslaw Milewski put it.

According to Krzaklewski the "Solidarity" trade union, which entered a collective dispute with the government a week ago, is not satisfied with the amount of funds allocated to the budget-paid sector. The union demands the valorization of remunerations, the withdrawal of the decision related to a 5 percent reduction in the wages' fund and insists that organizational and legal changes in the sector be implemented.

Before the talks the unionist did not rule out the possibility of launching a strike action of teachers and health care employees. Opinions of whether the meeting averted the threat of the strike were divided. Final decisions related to the strike action belong to authorities of public-sector sections that will meet within the coming days. Talks between "Solidarity" and the government are to resume on Monday.

Today's meeting between the prime minister and the "Solidarity" leader was substantially delayed due to an accident involving Krzaklewski's car on his way from Gdansk to Warsaw. However, talks between "Solidarity" officials representing public-sector workers and Labour Minister Jacek Kuron started as planned and continued after Suchocka and Krzaklewski left the meeting.

Polish-Lithuanian Relations Intensify

LD1902205793 Warsaw PAP in English 1910 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] Warsaw, Feb. 19—The successful and fruitful visit of Lithuanian Foreign Minister Povilos Gylys, who stopped over in Warsaw on his way from Stockholm to Vilnius last Thursday [18 February], is a symptom of intensifying Polish-Lithuanian relations, Foreign Ministry spokesman Grzegorz Dziemidowicz said on Friday.

Dziemidowicz added that Minister Gylys assured Polish Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski that there was no "special policy concerning the Polish community in Lithuania," and if problems arise they are never of ethnic nature.

Polish Foreign Ministry said that considerable progress was made in the work on the Polish-Lithuanian Treaty whose proposal is being examined in Vilnius at the moment.

Talks held by Minister Gylys focused first of all on economic questions. Lithuania is interested in the introduction of new regulations on free-trade zones, development of transport and trade with Poland, and in the construction of the "Via Baltica," a highway from Germany to Finland.

Foreign Ministry Official on Lithuanian Elections

AU1902165193 Warsaw ZYCIE WARSZAWY in Polish 16 Feb 93 p 3

["TAB"-signed report: "Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Elections in Lithuania, Warsaw-Vilnius Relations"]

[Text] "The presidential elections in Lithuania complete the changes that took shape in our neighbors' country during the parliamentary elections last fall," says Jakub Wolasiewicz, deputy director of the Europe Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. "The Lithuanian Democratic Party of Labor was the victor in those elections, and success has now come the way of its leader. The assumption of the presidential office by Brazauskas thus confirms that the process of reevaluation is of a lasting character and applies to both Vilnius' domestic and foreign policies. What is also important for Warsaw are signals that had earlier indicated that there was a possibility of overcoming the strains in Lithuanian-Polish relations from the time when Sajudis was in power. The most important development in this respect was the meeting between Prime Minister Hanna Suchocka and the head of the Lithuanian Government, Bronislovas Lubys, on the shores of Lake Wigry. It was decided at the meeting that negotiations on a treaty regulating the basis of mutual relations will begin as quickly as possible.

"The Polish draft of the treaty, which was conveyed to Vilnius in the middle of January, contains proposals for developing our relations on the basis of the future, not the past. So, it does not contain any passages concerning General Zeligowski's expedition against Lithuania, which Lithuanian nationalists wanted condemned in the treaty. It was Prime Minister Lubys who was the first to make the significant statement that it is for historians to comment on history, and a document of such importance as a bilateral treaty should be addressed to the present and the future.

"We are just at the preparatory stage regarding a program for economic cooperation with Lithuania. It will, however, become realistic when the Lithuanians start to institute structural changes and overcome recessionary trends in the economy by recovering markets in the former USSR."

Lithuanian Ambassador Reviews Relations

AU1902172393 Warsaw POLSKA ZBROJNA in Polish 16 Feb 93 p 2

[Interview with Dainius Junevicius, Lithuanian ambassador to Poland, by Helena Fiedorcowa; place and date not given: "Poland Is the Neighbor With Whom We Have Signed the Greatest Number of Agreements"]

[Text] [Fiedorcowa] You are a physicist by profession. How did you become a diplomat in Poland?

[Junevicius] I graduated from the physics faculty of Vilnius University in 1981. For a long time, I worked at the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences Institute of Semiconduction Physics. I have been with the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for over two years and I have been in Poland for almost two years. I began by working at the Lithuanian Information Bureau, which became an embassy following the resumption of diplomatic relations between our countries.

[Fiedorcowa] What is your assessment of the current situation in Lithuania?

[Junevicius] We are currently in a period between elections, the parliamentary elections, which ended recently, and the presidential elections, which took place on 14 February. This has a significant impact on the mood of society. The economy is in a clear crisis, which is inevitable when a system is being changed. There has been a fall in production, and we have problems with energy, but that does not affect the mood of people who are overly optimistic.

[Fiedorcowa] Why did people lose confidence in the "Sajudis" social movement. Their losses in the parliamentary elections show that.

[Junevicius] "Sajudis", like "Solidarity," was essentially a broad social movement, and it did not set itself the goal of winning the support of all the inhabitants of Lithuania, who—as is natural—hold a variety of views. Currently, "Sajudis" has fewer supporters because people have split up between various parties that reflect their political sympathies.

I hope that the results of the presidential elections will supply additional information on the mood of Lithuanian society. During the Sejm elections, people probably did not as much vote against "Sajudis" as for Brazauskas. Algirdas Brazauskas is very popular in Lithuania. Many people associate him with Lithuania's separation from the USSR and returning certain churches—which seems paradoxical—to the faithful. His image is an important element in his popularity.

[Fiedorcowa] Will Brazauskas' team deal with Lithuania's problems more quickly than its predecessors?

[Junevicius] The majority of people in the Democratic Party of Labor were linked to the old system. The majority are people who belong to the older generation

and whose views have already been formed. That might constitute a great obstacle in instituting market-oriented reform.

[Fiedorcowa] What is your assessment of the current state of Lithuanian-Polish relations?

[Junevicius] I think that the period in our relations when groundless accusations were made about discrimination against the Polish minority in Lithuania is over. We are moving toward closer relations and despite some strains, which are fanned by the press, the past two years have been very fruitful in terms of agreements and accords. Poland is one of the neighbors with which Lithuanian has signed the greatest number of bilateral agreements.

[Fiedorcowa] Why has there been such a delay in signing a document that is as important as the "Treaty on Good-Neighborly Relations and Cooperation?"

[Junevicius] It has not been the signing that has been delayed, but the commencement of talks on the treaty. A draft of the treaty has been ready for almost a year, but the Polish side delayed submitting it for various reasons. On 13 January—the first anniversary of the signing of the declaration on friendly relations and good-neighborly cooperation and the second, sad anniversary of the massacre at the Vilnius television transmitter—Jan Widacki, the Polish ambassador to Lithuania, handed over the draft treaty to acting President Algirdas Brazauskas.

[Fiedorcowa] So, the talks between Polish Prime Minister Suchocka and Lithuanian Prime Minister Lubys were not just a matter of courtesy?

[Junevicius] Definitely not. The period when the ethnic minorities were the key to our relations has already passed. The talks focused primarily on economic cooperation.

[Fiedorcowa] How do you assess the current situation of Poles in Lithuania and that of Lithuanians in Poland?

[Junevicius] The rights of national minorities in Lithuania are guaranteed by law and in the opinion of all the experts, those laws conform to international norms. Poles have the opportunity of being taught in their native language, they have the right to use Polish in the areas that they inhabit, the right to form organizations, the right to have their own press, and radio and television programs. The Vilnius Pedagogical University has, for example, for many years had a Polish faculty that trains teachers for schools where instruction is in Polish.

In Poland, the Lithuanians and other minorities speak Polish quite well and are integrated into Polish society. In Lithuania, the Poles were not a ethnic minority of Lithuania, but of the USSR. The language that came second in status after Polish, and more often than not was even the first language, was Russian. Poles who know Lithuanian do not have the problems that are experienced by those who do not know the language.

The Union of Poles in Lithuania [ZPL] consider itself to be the spokesman of the Poles in Lithuania. It would be a mistake to believe that it has the support of the entire Polish minority. In the last parliamentary elections, even the president of the ZPL lost in the Vilnius-Malack district against a "hated commissioner" for the Vilnius region. A similar view is held by moderate Polish activists such as Czeslaw Okinczyc, Medard Czobot, and others. They are positively disposed toward the Lithuanian state.

[Fiedorcowa] How are Lithuania's relations with its other (excluding Poland) neighbors developing?

[Junevicius] We are coordinating our cooperation with Latvia and Estonia as much as possible. The non-complementary character of our economy makes economic cooperation difficult. Cooperation in the area of creating joint projects for the region is proceeding well. The activities of the Baltic Council are being developed.

[Fiedorcowa] Does Lithuania still perceive a threat from Russia?

[Junevicius] What does present a threat above all is the presence of Russian forces on Lithuanian territory. That would be dangerous if radical changes were to occur in Russia and there was to be a return to a great power imperial policy. I think that withdrawal of Russian forces from Lithuania will be delayed as little as possible.

[Fiedorcowa] What are your impressions of Poland?

[Junevicius] I am pleased with the changes that are taking place, changes that have made it possible to renew relations between our states and have aided the return of normal relations. A new stage in cooperation has started. May it be as fruitful as possible.

[Fiedorcowa] Thank you.

Kaczynski Supports Early Presidential Elections

WS1902122193 Warsaw SIS in Polish 1907 GMT 18 Feb 93

["Press Conference of the Center Accord"—SIS headline]

[Text] During the Sejm session, the Center Accord Deputies' Club members organized a meeting with the press.

Jaroslaw Kaczynski, the Center Accord leader, who was present at the meeting, denied the recent press reports about the breaking up of the Center Accord Deputies' Club.

He also expressed regret at the fact that the mass media were ignoring the information on the meetings of Jan Parys, Adam Glapinski, and himself with the public. The meetings, he said, were organized all over the country.

Jaroslaw Kaczynski also informed the press about a Committee for the Defense of Democracy. The committee will soon be set up and its main purpose will be to accelerate the presidential election. Kaczynski backed up the last statement by saying that in the Belweder there is "an atmosphere of perpetuating power by all means."

The Center Accord Deputies' Club is counting on other center-right parties to join it in forming the Committee for the Defence of Democracy.

Kaczynski Denies Allegations on Center Accord Split

AU1902150793 Warsaw PAP in English 1955 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] Warsaw, Feb. 18—Speaking to journalists in the parliament building today, Centre Accord leader Jaroslaw Kaczynski denied rumours that the group of Center Accord MP's [members of parliament] is falling apart or that the Centre Accord's membership is shrinking.

Kaczynski said that the situation is reverse, the party boasts 13,000 members and their number is growing in connection with recent developments. He said he was satisfied with his series of meetings in various Polish towns but blamed the media for "blocking" information about them.

Kaczynski also said that the recently established Committee for the Defence of Democracy (KOD) is the first step towards new presidential elections.

Center-Right Attacks Idea of Euroregions

AU1902145093 Warsaw PAP in English 1540 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] Krakow, Feb. 17—An attempt to dismantle the Polish state and submit integral parts of its territory to the dictates of foreign states and powers under the guise of "European economic cooperation" is how Centre-Right Coordination Commission regards the establishment of the Pomeranian, Silesian and Carpathian Euroregions in a communique issued in Krakow today.

The commission is composed of the Christian Democracy, the Malopolska Citizens Committee, Freedom Party, Christian-National Movement-Polish Action, Movement for the Republic of Poland, Movement for the Third Republic of Poland, Party of Loyalty to the Republic of Poland, and the Center Alliance (PC) with observer status.

It regards all moves aimed at establishing "Euroregions" as one of the "obvious tendencies of the Liberal Democratic Congress (KLD) and Democratic Union (UD) of making Poland play a provincial role in the great European state."

The authors of the communique swear that they will do everything in their power to bring "those persons involved in the dismantling of Poland before the courts."

Spokesman Says Pro-Walesa Campaign Defends Reforms

LD1902232693 Warsaw PAP in English 2255 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] Warsaw, Feb. 19—Presidential spokesman Andrzej Drzycimski stressed on Friday [19 February] that the recently growing campaign in defence of the authority of the state, the presidency and "our road of transformations" was aimed at defending Poland's reforms.

Speaking in an interview with Polish radio in Gdansk, Drzycimski said that "these initiatives from below cannot be squandered. Groups, federations and social committees are being formed. These initiatives are the beginning of something which could become the basis of a broad social movement supporting the reforms."

"Many of the aspects of their activity are based on Lech Walesas presidential election campaign programme," added Drzycimski.

Walesa Calls For Cooperation on Migration Problem

AU1902155393 Hamburg DIE ZEIT in German 19 Feb 93 p 7

[Statement by President Lech Walesa in Warsaw; date not given: "Polish President Lech Walesa on Poverty Migration: 'We Cannot Isolate Ourselves'"]

[Text] Warsaw—We all want democracy, open borders, and the free movement of ideas and people, but we also know that such a development must be prepared. The theory is beautiful, but its implementation is all too difficult. We simply are unable to bear an opening up without preparations and balancing economic and other differences.

The beautiful ideas must be implemented in such a way that the inhabitants of the respective countries do not feel disturbed. The common interests must be harmonized so as not to destabilize each other.

Each state is looking for a solution that is best for them. The Germans are doing that, and the Poles are as well. They must tackle the problem in its entirety and take into account the international policy of the European states, as well as the humanitarian dimension. Poland is not prepared for such a comprehensive subject. Life has raced ahead of jurisdiction. It is indispensable to work out corresponding laws and structures and ensure the financial means.

We are already feeling the negative consequences of the presence of foreigners. Occasionally, it is accompanied by criminal phenomena. People are always moving from poor countries to rich countries. This is only natural. We cannot isolate ourselves. Only cooperation and getting to know each other will abolish the stereotypes, which give rise to the reemergence of the demons of the past. Europe

was divided much too long to erect new walls now, even though for completely different reasons.

The main principle of Polish foreign policy is openness. In the past, our geographic location was a curse for us. Today it can be beneficial for us, provided that we are able to make good use of it. We want good relations with all our neighbors. Isolation is not in our interest.

A completely different question is what one can do to eliminate threats and violations of rules. In this field, we should all act together and not forget that migration is a global problem that affects each state in a very special way.

Suchocka Postpones Liquidation of Nuclear Plant

AU1902150193 Warsaw PAP in English 1604 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] Warsaw, Feb. 18—Prime Minister Hanna Suchocka signed today a resolution of the Council of Ministers postponing the deadline for the liquidation of the unfinished nuclear power plant at the village of Zarnowiec, Gdansk province, the Government Press Office said. The new deadline is December 31, 1993, (previously 1992).

The resolution also authorizes the provincial governor in Gdansk to take over some of the tasks involved in the liquidation process and previously handled by the minister of industry.

The governor will appoint the liquidator and approve, in consultation with the Finance Ministry, a plan for the utilization of the assets existing at the plant construction site.

Farm Restructuring Will Take Generation

PM2202110193 Bialystok GAZETA WSPOLCZESNA in Polish 8 Feb 93 p 6

[Statements by Henryk Goryszewski, deputy premier and Christian National Union deputy chairman, from a meeting with the residents of the town of Rudka in Bialystok Voivodship, reported by GAZETA WSPOLCZESNA correspondent "KP"; date not given]

[Text] *Henryk Goryszewski, deputy premier and Christian National Union [ZChN] deputy chairman, spent almost an hour and a half talking with the residents of Rudka in Bialystok Voivodship. Agricultural concerns were the principal, but not the sole, topic discussed during the meeting. Below we publish extracts of the Deputy Minister's statements, transcribed from our correspondent's audio tape recording taken at the meeting.*

The Credit Goes to You

[Goryszewski] The times in which we live allow us to rejoice in our fully regained freedom. The times in which we live dictate that we must act so as not to lose that independence (...) The times in which we live require that we must all define the future of our country—and none of us present here, or our friends and families at home, should think that the future fate of Poland does not depend on us. We must not think that it depends on the president, the premier, the ministers, the Sejm, or the Senate. In reality, it all depends on you. It is because of that truth that I, Henryk Goryszewski, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, came to visit you here, just as I visited so many other places throughout the country. I am also deputy chairman and cofounder of the Christian National Union. Along with several other related organizations, that party—my party—has been noticed by the church and credited with sufficient trust that, as the Catholic Election Action, we were able to canvass for your votes in the last election. Consequently, it was thanks to your votes—the votes given by one out of ten Poles, although here in the Podlasie region the proportion in our favor was much higher—that our party has become one of the two or three leading political forces which are now jointly shaping Poland's present and its future.

You Must Choose

You spoke of the many past years of antipeasant policy and antipeasant economic management in our country. Some echoes of those years are still lingering in today's reality, but I believe that they are nothing more than faint echoes. It is to your credit that through your choice of the people whom you want to represent you in parliamentary life you determined the fate of our country. You must remember that from now on, during every subsequent election—whether in three years, seven years, eleven years, or any other time—it will be your presence or absence in the election, your mandate given to your representatives, and your conscious choice that will determine the future of Poland for very many years to come. And the people who will be responsible for Poland's future will be chosen on the strength of your decisions.

Lawyers—Automobiles—Beefsteaks

You are aware that Western countries pursue a very specific agricultural policy. This entails the granting of high subsidies for all spheres of agricultural production. In any modern Western state the the economic mechanisms in the agricultural sector have been developing in a fundamentally different way from the corresponding mechanisms in the industrial sector for the past 200 years or so. There, an industrial entrepreneur will follow a policy of encouraging an ever increasing, virtually unlimited demand for his goods—and the market offers him opportunities for doing so. If I remember my figures correctly, today in Poland we have one automobile for every five people. There are countries where there are as many automobiles as there are people, and there you can, for example, persuade attorneys that they should really change to a new model every year because otherwise people will think that they do not win their court cases and are too poor to afford a new car every 12 months. Then in a few years you can persuade them that

they should use a different car to drive to work and a different one to drive to church Sundays, and that their wives should also have a different car for going shopping. In this way you will eventually arrive at a figure of two cars per one citizen, and this could then be multiplied even further. Even here in Poland there are families in which there are as many television sets as there are family members. People's hunger for more consumer goods creates a demand which can be stimulated virtually endlessly. This, in turn, creates profit for the manufacturers and for the workers employed in their factories. However, the case is somewhat different when it comes to agricultural produce. You simply cannot stimulate the demand for food beyond a certain level. You cannot easily persuade a man who has eaten his fill to have yet another helping. Nor can you persuade a lawyer that he should as a rule eat two beefsteaks instead of one because otherwise people will think that he does not win his court cases: He will only eat as much as his system can digest. And this is the main reason why in all European countries it is extremely difficult to maintain the same living standards for the rural as for the urban population. And no sensible politicians in a sensible state can allow everyone to move from the countryside to the cities because there is unemployment in the cities already anyway.

A New Agricultural Policy Vision

The worst tragedy which has afflicted Poland's agricultural sector for the past couple of years is the fact that the same farmers who for the last two generations were forced to defend laboriously their right to own their small strips of land and who, short of being assisted by the state, were actually harassed and persecuted, are now being officially told that they must compete with the French or German farmers—who, in sharp contrast, have been assisted, subsidized, and protected by their states for generations. And, to compound the unfair deal, the papers then claim that the Polish farmers are worse that their French counterparts because they cannot win with them. But no one points out that the Polish farmers compete not with French farmers alone but with French farmers and the French state. This is why my party, which is not an urban-directed organization but a general nationwide group geared to protect the interests of each sector of the population, appreciates the need to defend the interests of the agriculture sector. This appreciation has contributed to the development of a new vision of the Polish agricultural policy. We have been working it out for at least six months now, and certainly since I have been appointed deputy premier. Clearly, the new agricultural policy must be commensurate with the opportunities and the potential at our disposal. A poor country cannot afford to support its agricultural sector with subsidies of the same order of magnitude as those extended to agriculture in Western countries. We will try to use a slightly different approach, using all available resources.

The Land and the Two Generations

First of all, we need a thoroughgoing reform of the structure of Polish agriculture. This is not only because an average Polish agricultural farm does not use enough machines to cut down the heavy physical work involved. First of all we must address several other, more fundamental problems. One of these is to sort out the assets remaining after the dissolution of the State Farms [PGR]. This involves 4 million hectares of agricultural land. We must on no account allow them to lie fallow, nor can we permit a situation where they could be taken over by people who at the moment have huge fortunes at their disposal, for these large fortunes were more often than not gained in dishonest ways—and in saying this I take full responsibility for my words here. We must not allow this land to fall into the hands of people who have nothing whatever to do with agriculture, who are not even remotely interested in it, and who will simply treat such a purchase as a means of laundering their dirty money or a way of investing their fortunes safely in landed property. After all, land is not a renewable asset: Once you sell a hundred hectares, they are gone, and another hundred hectares will certainly not grow in their place. There is also another problem: that of the population drainage from the rural sector. This is particularly acute in Lublin voivodship, along the so-called "East Wall." Young people desert rural communities and go to cities. If we are to halt this unhealthy phenomenon successfully, we must achieve two objectives. First, we need to realize that there is no future in small farms comprising several, or even up to 20 or so hectares. Such farms will always require a great deal of hard physical labor to plow into it—today as well as in hundred years—and then the lure of living and working in a city will always be far more powerful to young people than the pull of the land. The rural communities will simply die out. Consequently, we must use the land available as post-PGR assets to transform the present land-ownership structure in the rural sector. However, this will not happen overnight: We will need at least a generation—possibly even a couple of generations—to carry out a satisfactory scheme of such large-scale restructuring. This is to ensure that the end result is a model of a system of large, efficient, viable farms, capable of providing satisfactory living standards for the families which will run them. The family farm seen as the basic unit of the model which I, and other politicians of my group are using, is very different from the standard farm of the communist era, when 15 hectares were the permitted upper limit. The family farms we have in mind will constitute a viable work place for the family unit, whether they extend to 50 or 350 hectares.

Iliescu Returns From 'Remarkable' Visit to NATO

AU1902213193 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 2000 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] President Ion Iliescu returned today from a two-day visit to Belgium, where he held talks with the leadership of the North-Atlantic Alliance and other Western bodies, as well as meetings with Belgian authorities. Likewise, Mr. Ion Iliescu conducted talks with the representatives of the managements of certain Belgian federations, enterprises, and banks and paid a brief visit to the port of Anvers.

On his arrival in Bucharest, Mr. Ion Iliescu told the press that all the meetings he held in those two days of very intensive activity were remarkable. Both during his talks with the representatives of European institutions, as well as during his meetings with Belgian politicians, everybody pointed out the importance of the signing of the accord on Romania's association to the EEC. President Ion Iliescu said that his talks at NATO and the Western European Union dealt with the latest developments in the region, the concept of partnership, which has developed in NATO's relations with nonmember countries, and Romania's very active presence in NATO's Cooperation Council. Discussions also focused on hotbeds in Europe, particularly the conflict in Yugoslavia. In this respect, Mr. Ion Iliescu said that the officials he met expressed interest in Romania's positions and valued the balanced way in which Romania is searching for political solutions to that situation.

Asked about Romania's chances of joining NATO, President Iliescu said that, right now, a new framework has been created with a view to extending cooperation at an European level through the creation of NATO's Cooperation Council, which enables our country to actively participate in all NATO activities at all levels, particularly in working out the new concepts of equal security for all European countries.

Iliescu Views Results of Visit

AU1902191293 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1417 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 19/2/1993—"It was a rich visit by the number and contents of the meetings we have had," was the assessment made by President Ion Iliescu about his tour to Brussels, where he had interviews with both the NATO and WEU Councils and with Belgian officials.

"All the contacts we have had were absolutely exceptional," the Romanian head of state said, describing the talks as "particularly warm and straightforward, both regarding the European matters and the Romanian-Belgian relations."

President Iliescu showed that "with the NATO and WEU, we have tackled the concept of partnership, Romania considering that now there is a new and unitary security framework for all European states.

"As for the second part of the visit," the president said, "we have noticed the wish of the Belgian businessmen to develop the bilateral cooperation, to extend their participation in the Romanian economy so as to capitalise its productive potential."

Dailies Acclaim Iliescu's Visit

AU2002191093 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1601 GMT 20 Feb 93

[From the Romanian press review of 20 February]

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 20/2/1993— "NATO Takes Romania in Its Arms" (LIBERTATEA), "A More Than Positive Score" (DIMINEATA), "The Importance of Integration" (REALITATEA ROMANEASCA), "Romania Is Reshaping Its New Euro-Atlantic Relations" (TINERETUL LIBER), and "Results Beyond Expectations" (ADEVARUL) are only some of the headlines in the Saturday, 20 February press at the close of President Ion Iliescu's visit to NATO headquarters in Brussels.

Pointing to the "political dimension" of the presence in Brussels of the Romanian top delegation, daily ADEVARUL thinks that "after this European marathon, Romania and Romanian diplomacy gained more confidence in their demarches [actions] in the international arena, which they can now make in consultation and harmony with the European communities' political-economic structures. The bilateral Romanian-Belgian actions engaged and the willingness shown by the Belgian employers would not have been possible without the green light given by NATO and EC," the daily concludes.

TINERETUL LIBER finds that "President Iliescu's visit is undoubtedly a moment of reference for Romania's opening to the Euro-Atlantic space, the second greatest after the signing of the association with the EEC." Showing that "both Romania and NATO are interested in these relations," the daily considers that "there was a special circumstance that contributed to the success of the Romanian president's visit," and quotes the manner in which the United States intends to get involved in the settlement of the Yugoslav crisis, as well as its "strategic interests," and explains that "between a strong but wavering Russia and a Germany that covets to expand its sphere of influence, Romania can suddenly furnish a new calculus element and may even become an important factor in the dynamics of peace and of the new continental architecture."

REALITATEA ROMANEASCA shares similar views, seeing in Romania the country that "could have a key role in the Yugoslav conflict due to its direct neighborliness with Serbia and to its geopolitical location in the Danube and the Black Sea basin," a fact attested by "the common view shared lately by neighboring countries.

History has more than once demonstrated the importance of Romania's geostrategical location, which can now be, like other times before, the trump card of our country's European integration," REALITATEA ROMANEASCA winds up.

DIMINEATA [daily close to presidential circles] terms "this event" as "speaking for itself about the Romanian political life's having stepped in line with the historical tempo of Europe, its acceptance in the continental structures bearing proof that the association was not just Romania's wish, but also indisputably Europe's own interest in having Romania as a partner and, maybe, in a not too remote future, as an ally."

While remarking that "by its stability, Romania is beginning to be an attractive partner," LIBERTATEA writes: "Let us hope the Western partners we are so much longing for today will not forget that back in 1944 at Yalta, they decided to send us the 'liberating tanks,' alluding to how the allied powers divided the spheres of influence among them after World War II and how the agreements of Yalta 'assigned' Romania to the former USSR's sphere of influence.

Iliescu Holds Talks With NATO, EC

WA1902073093

For reportage on the visit to Brussels by President Iliescu, including his talks with NATO, EC, and Belgian officials, see the International Affairs and Benelux sections of the 18 February West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

North Atlantic Assembly Delegation Received

AU1802212893 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1943 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 18/2/1993—The President of the Romanian Senate, Oliviu Gherman, and the Speaker of the Romanian Chamber of Deputies, Adrian Nastase received Thursday, February 18, the delegation of the North Atlantic Assembly's [NAA] Subcommission, now on a visit to Bucharest.

A survey was made of the relations between Romania and the North Atlantic Assembly.

Oliviu Gherman opined that the delegation's visit was in fact a new and important opportunity to develop Romania's relations with the NAA, an opportunity to provide the guests with exact information so they might get an accurate picture of the process of political and economic democratization in the Romanian society.

Adrian Nastase referred to the strong development of Romania's relations with NAA and expressed his hope that the guests had made a correct appraisal of the real, revealing dimensions of the ongoing democratic processes in Romania.

Mr. Gerard Gaud said he had been pleased with the substantiality of the talks, the quantity of information and statistic surveys he had received.

Ex-King Mihai Plans To Visit at Easter

AU1802194593 Bucharest ROMANIA LIBERA in Romanian 15 Feb 93 p 3

[Interview with Corneliu Coposu, president of the National Peasant Christian Democratic Party, by Roxana Iordache; place and date not given: "His Majesty Wishes To Visit His Country at Easter"]

[Excerpts] Having recently returned from a visit to the West, Mr. Corneliu Coposu told us: Answering an invitation extended to me by my counterparts at the head of the Christian-Democratic parties of Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and Belgium, I have recently paid a visit to the West, not only to promote the interests of the National Peasant Christian Democratic Party [PNTCD], but also the country's interests. [passage omitted] While in Switzerland, I asked to be received by His Majesty King Mihai I. I stayed at Versoix for one day. The King is very keenly following developments in our country. His Majesty expressed the intention and desire to visit our country. He said that, even after the failure of negotiations to date, he would still like to spend Easter in Timisoara. It so happened that I recently had a talk with Foreign Minister Teodor Melescanu, who assured me that there are no objections to His Majesty's visiting his own country whenever he wishes. Mr. Melescanu also told me that all the conditions that the King raised for his planned visit last Christmas are unrealistic.

Ethnic Hungarians Set Up 'Little Parliament'

AU2002195593 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1800 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] Today at 0800 Radio Kossuth [in Budapest] broadcast the following news: The new UDMR [Democratic Union of Hungarians in Romania] Council—the little parliament of the Hungarians living in Romania—has been set up. The main decisionmaking council of the UDMR was created in the town of Gheorgheni, Harghita County. The council of the UDMR representatives is to make efforts, on the basis of the principles of local self-government, to embrace and represent the whole Hungarian ethnic minority in Romania.

Tamas Csiha was elected president of the council. The message of Bishop Laszlo Tokes, currently on a tour in the United States, was read during the meeting in Harghita County. UDMR Honorary President Tokes in his message warns about the risks of new personal and principle disputes within UDMR, Radio Kossuth said in its program broadcast this morning.

Concerning this issue, we have contacted UDMR President Bela Marko, who is currently in Gheorgheni. Mr. Marko made the following statement:

[Begin Marko recording] I have to tell you that I can see no reason for surprise, as it was published that this event would take place. The press also carried news about it.

Following the [15-17 January] UDMR Congress in Brasov and the statute elements and principles passed by the congress, it was our duty to set up the main steering bodies of the Democratic Union of Hungarians in Romania, among which the Council of Representatives if the most important decisional forum. The council consists of representatives of the UDMR parliamentary group, the presidents of the UDMR territorial organizations, various UDMR platforms, local administration counselors belonging to UDMR, and 21 delegates elected by the Brasov congress. This means that the council is a body of large representation, including the representatives of the various trends and interests within UDMR and within the Hungarian ethnic community in Romania.

During the setting up of that body, we discussed its functioning principles, which were not detailed nor passed in the Brasov congress; we elected the president of the council in the person of Mr. Tamas Csiha, and we appointed the UDMR Executive President in the person of Csaba Takacs. [end recording]

Roman Favors Continued Reform, EC Integration

AU1902175593 Bucharest AZI in Romanian 17 Feb 93 p 3

[Interview with Petre Roman, president of the National Salvation Front, by Florin Diaconu in Bucharest on 13 February: "Maintaining the Course of Democratization and Reform"]

[Text] [Diaconu] What was the perception of your partners in the economic and political talks you held during your Western European tour [France, Great Britain, Spain, and Luxembourg] about the role of the democratic opposition in today's Romania and the importance of the National Salvation Front [FSN] in maintaining, consolidating, and continuing the democratic evolution and economic reform?

[Roman] The key questions put to me by the economists were: How are the broad guidelines of the reform started by the cabinet I led and then by the Stolojan cabinet being further implemented? Are they being continued or not? If yes, how? Do they have any chance? If so, what are their chances of success? What signals can one send to the foreign investors? Both the economists and the politicians I met correctly see the opposition—in the context of real Romanian circumstances—as striving to maintain the course of democratization, opposing various attempts to limit the process of democratization, and also doing its best to maintain the course of reform. From this viewpoint, the FSN is regarded with the same kind of empathy that is extended to the parties of the Democratic Convention of Romania.

[Diaconu] What was the opinion of your main economic discussion partners about the current situation and future prospects of the Romanian economy?

[Roman] I noticed a certain state of expectancy. One might say that it was a positive attitude, but is was still expectancy, as they were not quite sure whether the two major lines or reform—the large-scale privatization and economic restructuring—are being seriously continued in Romania. Of course, I also spoke about the results of the reform process to date, respectively the emergence of the private sector, and I presented some key figures in this respect, which were received quite well. Let us not forget that the world economy is going through a period of recession. All countries I visited, particularly Great Britain and Spain, but also France, to a certain extent, are facing great difficulties. Unemployment is rampant everywhere and entire enterprises had to close down. Therefore, the question one asks when faced with these realities is the following: What is the correlation between this recession in the West and the need to integrate the former communist countries? This integration is not simple at all, since given the prevailing economic crisis there, the demon of egoism is naturally being bolstered. Nevertheless, the integration process, particularly integration within the EEC, has a chance which we should fully make use of; in this connection, I would like to mention the recent signing of the association accord, which was initiated by the Roman government and further negotiated by the Stolojan government. Everybody keeps telling us: You should implement this agreement and you will see how useful it will be. Well, Hungary has been doing this and is reaping formidable benefits. In Spain and Luxembourg I also tackled two important subjects from the sphere of restructuring: the steel and energy industries. Fortunately, there are good chances of success in this respect.

Liberal Merger Congress Elects Leaders

AU2002204393 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 2000 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] The merger congress of liberal factions that decided the setting up of the Liberal Party, has elected Vintila Bratianu as president of the party's National Council, Horia Rusu as executive president of the Steering Committee, and Traian Tomescu as president of the Conciliation and Arbitration Court. Constantin Balaceanu-Stolnici was elected president of the Senate of the Liberal Party, our correspondents reported.

Following the hearing of the candidates, several ballots were held to elect the members of the Leaders' Group. After the third ballot, the Leaders' Group comprises the following persons: Dinu Patriciu, who obtained 35.44 percent of the votes, Horia Rusu, with 32.26 percent of the votes, and Dinu Zamfirescu, with 26.00 percent of the votes [figures as heard]. According to party statute, the minimal necessary votes for a person to be admitted to the Leaders' Group is 20 percent of the valid votes, our reporters said.

Negritoiu, EC Official Discuss Economic Reform

AU1902142293 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1100 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] State Minister Misu Negritoiu, [president of the Council for Coordination, Strategy, and Economic Reform] met with Leopoldo Ortiz Climent, European Parliament representative for Romanian-EEC relations, at government headquarters today. During the meeting, the two sides discussed the Romanian Government policies concerning macroeconomic stability, restructuring enterprises, the economy, social protection, and administrative reform.

The guest was briefed on government activities in connection with the ratification of the interim accord and on preparations to apply it. Expressing appreciation for the efforts made by the Romanian Government to overcome the difficulties faced in the transition process to a market economy, the guest viewed his visit to Romania as extremely useful for relaunching relations with the European Parliament, our reporter accredited to the government informed us.

Negritoiu, Georgescu Outline Economic Strategy

AU2002170093 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 0500 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] Misu Negritoiu, minister of state and chairman of the Council for Coordination, Strategy, and Economic Reform, held a news conference yesterday at Victoria Palace briefly outlining the executive's strategy concerning the economic and social reform, which is to be presented later to Parliament and parliamentary groups, trade unions, employers, and the press.

Negritoiu said that the program is intended to establish a balanced progress under the circumstances of the two fundamental limits: the scarcity of natural resources and social protection. The executive's strategy is conceived as a three-stage program, namely the elimination of the causes of malfunctioning of economy and of the financial blockage, internal system transformations, and the relaunching of the economy.

The document does not foresee any quantitative targets, but rather qualitative ones, as all that matters now is to make the necessary changes that can trigger economic growth, Negritoiu pointed out.

Negritoiu said that the people's living standard will not grow, and the inflation rate will reach 70 percent. The number of the unemployed will also grow to 1,400,000.

Privatization remains a priority issue: 5-6 percent of the state owned companies—that is, a number of 2,000 to 2,500 small and medium-size companies—will become private property.

Talking about directing Romanian industry, Misu Negritoiu said that the state will merely intervene in the problematical branches, such as the iron and steel, chemical, and machine building industries, while other branches will be left to develop under the influence of the market and banking conditions.

Finance Minister Florin Georgescu also took the floor during the news conference, outlining a few facts from the state budget that was elaborated by the government. According to Georgescu, as far as spending public funds is concerned, the budget is an austerity one, the planned deficit being intended merely to make new investments and create new jobs. A new element is the growth of local self-financing, Georgescu said, explaining that a number of local state incomes, just as expenses for health and education, will entirely be left to local budgets.

The budget deficit will reach four percent, which is seemingly more than the one in 1992, but actually less, due to differences in the national gross product, the Finance Minister Georgescu pointed out.

More on Budget

AU2002190993 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1643 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 20/2/1993—Finance Minister Florin Georgescu told the press at the news conference of 19 February that the budget the Romanian Government was to submit to Parliament for debate would be an 'austerity' one.

The 1993 state budget had as a calculation basis the 1992 level of the gross domestic product (GDP) in comparable figures.

The state budget was computed at a 500 lei per U.S. dollar reference rate and considering subsidy cuts for some of the services with effect from 1 May 1993. The fiscal rate for 1993 is estimated at 34 percent.

Budget deficit will stand for 4 percent of the GDP, of which 92.1 percent will be apportioned to capital investment for technological up-dating and restructuring of some economic sectors.

Minister Georgescu specified that the budget was examined with IMF experts and after the visit to Bucharest of the IMF delegation an aide-memoir was concluded stating the IMF agreement in principle.

The finance minister also showed that the draft 1993 budget law makes provisions for expenses to cover cost and price balances in basic sectors of the national industry, such as mining. The amounts allocated provide for a slight output growth as against 1992, subsequent to modernization and restructuring to be undergone by basic sector units.

Government Approves Credits for Agriculture

AU1902192893 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1912 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 19/2/1993—The government took new steps in its Friday [19 February] meeting

to support the 1993 farm production and the preparations for the next year's one. Bank credits were approved worth 100 billion lei for farm producers who will pay an interest rate of only 15 percent. Steps were also taken to revigorate the chemical fertilizer production. It was approved that $7.5 million be used to this end from the IBRD [expansion unknown] credit given to Romania for the import of raw materials to produce chemical fertilizers. The money can finance the production of 60,000 tonnes chemical fertilizers, enough for a farmland of some 600,000 hectares.

The executive also approved the financing from the state budget of the irrigation system exploitation, maintenance and repair, to which it earmarked 65 billion lei.

Constantinescu Holds Talks With IMF, World Bank

AU1802174193 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1501 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 18/2/1993—On a visit to the United States, Emil Constantinescu, Chairman of the Democratic Convention of Romania [CDR] (group of opposition political parties) participated Thursday, February 18, in a round table conference organized at the U.S. Chamber of Industry and Commerce by the International Center for Economic Development.

Mr. Constantinescu read a paper on the political and economic transition period in Romania.

Previously Mr. Constantinescu had interviews with IMF [International Monetary Fund] and World Bank officials, where he also met with Romanian functionaries accredited to the two financial institutions.

During an interview with Romania's former prime minister Theodor Stolojan, now a high officer with the World Bank, aspects were discussed of the structural economic reform during the transition period [toward market economy].

Statistical Situation of Foreign Investors Viewed

AU2202140893 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0922 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 22/2/1993—Statistics referring to the penetration of foreign capital in East Europe, writes daily ADEVARUL, place Romania first as regards the number of joint ventures—over 20,500—but the same statistics place Romania fourth as regards the total volume of engaged capital, that is, $540 million. Moreover, the daily claims that "a close analysis of the flow of foreign capital to Romania reveals many surprises, some of them even unpleasant."

The daily shows that at the end of 1992 the total volume of foreign capital registered in Romania through joint companies topped $540 million, which is more than the double of the capital that entered the country in 1990 and 1991. It can be assessed that the year 1992 "marked the beginning of the second wave of investments." In other words, it marked the emergence of the first "investments of confidence and stability." This is proved by the existence of over 60 joint ventures, each one of them with a foreign currency nominal capital of over $1 million. Although the confidence investors are not very numerous, they have already started including important companies. The major ten companies of this category have so far brought to Romania a capital worth over $180 billion, and the first ten (Shell, Mondo Holding, Chemag SpD, Amoco) hold almost 60 percent of this capital.

However, ADEVARUL notes, one should also see that the major penetration into the Romanian economy still consists of "petty capital," meaning tentative investments. Meaningful are the following figures: Whereas only 61 joint companies have brought so far 68 percent of the foreign capital, almost all the joint ventures—over 20,000—have facilitated the penetration of only 33 percent of the total foreign capital. This avalanche of "petty investors," ADEVARUL says, has an easy explanation: "Romania has widely opened gates, with no restriction at all, to anyone ready to invest. But, the triggering off of this process was made under a populist slogan, not openly declared but accepted by everybody: 'the more investors the better'."

This global strategy at the beginning of attraction of the foreign capital should be urgently changed, ADEVARUL stresses. The mushrooming joint ventures relying on petty capital create a false image of Romania's real needs now. It is about time that both the Romanian Agency for Development and the commercial companies in all branches of the national economy no longer hurried to stretch a hand to anyone that comes with a few hundred dollars in Romania. Because such investors, even in consideration of the saying 'one stitch at a time', ADEVARUL concludes "contributes rather to launching fishy businesses than to participation in the restructuring and refloating of the Romanian economy."

Unions Condemn 'Nefarious' Wage Policy

AU1902151493 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0905 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 19/2/1993—The National Board of the National Union Bloc, BUN, that held an extraordinary meeting, "condemns" in a communique sent to ROMPRES the government's low salary policy, which it considers "inefficient and nefarious." The BUN attitude was caused by the fact that this policy had not led to higher efficiency and productivity and had not diminished the price increase, so that production had dropped and the living standards lowered.

BUN asked the legislative bodies to reject the demand of the government to be empowered to continue the low salary policy over 1993. It also demanded them to ask the executive "to take steps to stop the drop in the purchase power by keeping a 0.8 ratio between prices and salaries, a ration that had been negotiated with BUN

in 1992. BUN also asked for minimum wages to be fixed and guaranteed and for a poverty line to be established and put out in the press."

Ethnic Germans Protest Decision on TV Programs

AU1702125993 Bucharest ROMANIA LIBERA in Romanian 12 Feb 93 p 3

[Article by Rares Florea, Mircea Aries: "New Forms of Censorship in Television"]

[Text] According to Decision 132 of 29 January, announced by Radu George Serafim, the director of the Spiritual Life, Traditions, Ethnic Minorities Department of the Romanian Television Company [TVR], as of 1 February the three programs [dedicated to ethnic minorities in Romania] of TVR First Channel are to be turned into cultural, ethnographic, and folklore magazines. According to the same decision, these programs are to be broadcast on the second television channel or by local television studios. The main reason quoted by Serafim is the fact that the programs, in the form they have been broadcast so far, are redundant with respect to other economic and political information programs [broadcast for the Romanian majority population].

The decision to have those programs broadcast by the second channel seems to be nonsense, considering the fact that reception of that station is impossible in the areas densely inhabited by the Hungarian and German ethnic minorities. Furthermore, the German ethnic minority considers the "de-politization" of its programs to be an offense against that ethnic group. The Democratic Forum of Germans in Romania [FDGR] protested against the decision, considering it to be a discriminating and censorious measure. "We consider it inconceivable that the television portrayal of our community should be limited to its ethnographic and folklore aspects. Such a measure would mean that our ethnic group—and, actually, all ethnic minorities—would be confined to reservations similar to the ones created on other continents for the primitive native population," FDGR president Paul Philippi said.

Ironically, the friendship and partnership treaty concluded by our country with Germany stipulates in Articles 15 and 16 that Romania will endorse the efforts made by the German ethnic minority intended to preserve and freely express its national identity. Similarly, during the talks between the two governments' representatives, direct reference was made to the television programs in German language, and the wish was explicitly formulated that such programs are to be endorsed.

In the name of the German ethnic community, FDGR has already sent a protest note to TVR Director General Paul Everac. We are expecting him to take the appropriate measures.

Article Anticipates Serious Food Shortage

AU1702153393 Bucharest ADEVARUL in Romanian 12 Feb 93 p 3

[Article by I. Stefan: "The Most Serious Drought of the Second Half of the Century is Expected This Year"]

[Text] Our agricultural production in 1992 was merely 90.8 percent of that achieved in the previous year. We harvested 7 million fewer tonnes of cereals than in 1991. Besides, the largest part of those crops remained in the producer households, which considerably diminished the amount bought by the state. Concretely, those quantities were 44.7 percent of the total amount of harvested wheat, 40.2 percent of the barley and two-row barley, and 16.8 percent of the corn produced. In livestock production, the quantity sold to state reserves diminished even more: Compared to the previous year, meat deliveries decreased by 29.7 percent, milk by 24 percent, and eggs by 38.5 percent. The drop in agricultural production and the diminishing of the amount of products sold to the state has created a deficit in raw materials for the food processing industry and a scarcity in consumer products. As a consequence of this, in 1992 we had to import 1.1 million tonnes of wheat, 580,000 tonnes of barley, 263,600 tonnes of corn, potatoes, onions, and certain amounts of milk and meat products.

It seems that the situation this year will be even more critical. On the one hand, the most serious drought in the last four decades may be expected this year, especially in the southern part of the country. On the other hand, although the government has hinted that under such exceptional circumstances it intends to take exceptional measures and that it will order substantial funds—even in hard currency—pumped into agriculture, the state of our agriculture continues to deteriorate daily. To be more specific, our agriculture has not been provided yet with the fertilizers badly needed for the preparation for planting nearly 3 million hectares of cereal, and the agricultural machinery industry is producing at the same low rate as in the previous year. Irrigation and diesel fuel are also [unsolved] priorities. This is compounded by the financial blockage strangling almost every agricultural unit and branch. Things have gone so far that producers consider themselves lucky if they manage to obtain loans with a 70 percent interest rate! Loans at a [promised] 15 percent interest rate continue to be beautiful dreams.

Fortunately, today we can still buy our daily bread produced from imported wheat. What about tomorrow?

Izetbegovic Orders Cease-fire, End to Boycott

LD2002190993 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Hercegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] The Bosnia-Hercegovina Presidency held a session today. President of the Bosnia-Hercegovina Presidency Alija Izetbegovic made a statement on decisions that were reached:

[Begin Izetbegovic recording] A session of the Bosnia-Hercegovina Presidency was held today. Two important decisions were made about which I would like to inform the public. The first one refers to the problem of boycotting humanitarian aid by some towns in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

The Presidency adopted a decision to suggest to the assemblies of these towns to examine and suspend these decisions. The Presidency has done it by acting on appeals by the friendly part of the international public which has repeatedly demanded that these decisions be reexamined, and by acting on today's statement from a rally of citizens from eastern Bosnia-Hercegovina, who also demanded that these decisions be reexamined and called for the individual forms of protest against the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina, such as a hunger strike, but an individual one, not a collective hunger strike.

In addition, the Presidency deems that the boycott has so far fulfilled its purpose because it drew the attention of the international public in a sufficiently clear way, and most probably contributed to the adoption of certain decisions, including a decision by the UN Security Council yesterday evening on the protection of humanitarian convoys.

We do not yet know the exact wording of the resolution. We only heard in the news bulletin that it dealt with the extension of UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force] mandate. We expect—if not by yesterday's decision, but by future procedure—that the mandate will be extended and defined in such a way that the UNPROFOR could in the future ensure successful protection of convoys for all destinations in Bosnia-Hercegovina and remove any obstacles on the way. In this respect, we welcome yesterday's UN Security Council decision and hope that it was worked out in this way. We also believe that the UN Security Council should pass a resolution authorizing the UNPROFOR to equally protect the humanitarian aid sent by the UNHCR [Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees] and by all other humanitarian organizations which, as we are well aware, did not enjoy such protection in the past.

Furthermore, the Presidency maintains that, until such conditions are created and until some villages in Bosnia-Hercegovina remain under blockade, the United Nations should take urgent measures to distribute humanitarian aid by air, by means of parachute, if this proves impossible by land. In this connection, the Presidency expects that the suspended air lift will be urgently restored and that humanitarian flights for Sarajevo will start immediately. The Presidency insists that Tuzla airport be opened without further delay to ensure the distribution of humanitarian aid in this part of Bosnia-Hercegovina. This is as far as the boycott is concerned.

The second decision, the second important decision, refers to the peace process. In order to give its contribution to the peace process, the Presidency decided to order a unilateral cease-fire. Our units will be ordered to cease fire on all frontlines and to only respond if attacked. The Presidency appeals to the UNPROFOR to supervise the implementation of our order and truthfully and objectively inform the public at home and abroad on whether the cease-fire order is being observed.

These are our two important decisions. [end recording]

UNHCR to Resume Convoys

LD2102200493 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1925 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Text] Belgrade, February 21 (TANJUG)—United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Sadako Ogata decided on Sunday [21 February] to resume the supply of humanitarian aid in the former Yugoslav republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina on Monday, after a temporary four-day break, reported Associated Press (AP).

Sadako Ogata has been given assurances by all warring sides in Bosnia-Hercegovina that the passage of humanitarian aid will not be hindered.

Bosnian Moslem leader Alija Izetbegovic said at the end of last week that aid for citizens of Sarajevo would not be accepted until Moslem enclaves in eastern Bosnia blocked by Bosnian Serbs, had received aid. Humanitarian convoes to eastern Bosnia were blocked because of combat activities.

At the beginning of the week Sadako Odaka decided to suspend all humanitarian aid to bosnia. Her [words indistinct] Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali.

Humanitarian aid activities will be resumed on Monday, said a UNHCR statement issued in Geneva on Sunday.

Serbs Lift Blockade

LD2102133593 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in English 1305 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Text] Bosnian Serbs have lifted their blockade of UN relief convoys in eastern Bosnia. According to UN sources, a 10-truck convoy which had been halted by local Serb commanders has been allowed to continue on to the besieged Muslim towns of Zepa and Gorazde. UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force] headquarters in Sarajevo reports that at 0900 this morning, the convoy had been given permission to complete the last 12 kilometers of its journey.

Aid Convoy Reaches Zepa

AU2102170993 Paris AFP in English 1622 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Text] Zagreb, Feb 21 (AFP)—A 10-truck aid convoy reached the besieged eastern Bosnian Moslem town of Zepa Sunday [21 February] after being held up for a week, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) representatives in Zagreb and Belgrade said.

The convoy, carrying food and medicines, had been split into two, with seven trucks destined for the eastern town of Gorazde and three heading for Zepa.

However, the bad condition of the road to Gorazde persuaded United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) commander in Bosnia General Philippe Morillon to send all 10 trucks to Zepa.

Only one other convoy has reached Zepa—a small mountain town about 100 kilometres (60 miles) northeast of the Bosnian capital Sarajevo and 30 kilometres (about 20 miles) northeast of Gorazde—since the war in Bosnia-Hercegovina began nearly a year ago. That one arrived in January.

Serb forces had earlier refused to allow the convoy through to Zepa unless Moslems defending the town laid down their arms.

According to Radio Sarajevo, at least 157 people, weakened by cold and hunger, have died over the past three weeks in Zepa. They included 62 children.

UNHCR spokeswoman Lyndell Sachs said in Belgrade that another convoy would leave Belgrade for Gorazde "in the next few days."

She said mines and snow on the road from Rogatica to Gorazde had so far prevented UNPROFOR engineers from repairing it. Repair work would resume when the weather improved, she said.

UNHCR spokesman Laurens Jollef said he did not expect the work to resume for about 48 hours.

About 70,000 people are believed to be besieged in Gorazde, half of them refugees from other areas.

On January 11, the Bosnian Government called for an aid boycott in solidarity with besieged Moslems in eastern Bosnia who had been deprived of relief supplies by Serb blockades.

On Saturday, Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic called for the boycott to be lifted. It had achieved its aim, he said, and drawn the world's attention to the situation in eastern Bosnia.

In what may prove another test for the viability of road convoys in former Yugoslavia, a French convoy of 59 trucks carrying 400 tonnes of aid arrived over the weekend on the Croatian coast.

It is due to travel on Monday to Kiseljak, 30 kilometers (20 miles) from Sarajevo, where negotiations will continue for its onward passage.

Sarajevo Authorities Lift Boycott

AU2202120293 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Hercegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1100 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Report by Predrag Smoljan from the Sarajevo City Assembly]

[Text] Now that humanitarian aid has reached Zepa, and is approaching other occupied places in eastern Bosnia, the Executive Council of the Sarajevo City Assembly has decided to withdraw its decision on the boycott of humanitarian aid to Sarajevo. Mustafa Pamuk, chairman of the city government, informed the councillors of this decision. Considering that we have achieved our aim, the City Executive Council has decided to cancel the decision on the boycott of humanitarian aid; its distribution can resume today.

Today's session of the city government was mostly concerned with the military, political and security situation in Sarajevo. Mustafa Hajrulahovic-Talijan, commander of the First Corps, and Avdo Panjeta, deputy commander of the Security Services Center, addressed this issue. This has been Predrag Smoljan reporting for the midday newscast.

Croats Oppose Aid Boycott

LD1902191893 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1902 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] Belgrade, February 19 (TANJUG)—Spokesman of the forces of Bosnia-Hercegovina Croats in the town of Mostar, Vaso Vegard, on Friday [19 February] denied that Mostar would join Sarajevo and turn down receiving relief aid, according to Croatian Radio.

Mostar is the centre of Herceg-Bosnia, the state community proclaimed by Bosnia-Hercegovina Croats inside the administrative borders of the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Vegard told a news conference that "other means of pressure on international institutions should be sought, and not those means as a result of which, in addition to those who were already hunger stricken, 50,000 children are now going hungry in Sarajevo."

The Muslim authorities in Sarajevo last week banned the distribution of humanitarian aid to the city residents, demanding that humanitarian aid reach Muslims in eastern Bosnia-Hercegovina.

The decision of the Muslim authorities in Sarajevo has been condemned by the U.N. Security Council and all international humanitarian organizations.

Vegar said that forces of Bosnia-Hercegovina Muslims were carrying out additional forcible mobilization in the area of Mostar. The spokesman said that citizens were

not obliged to answer the mobilization calls, because he said neither the forces of Bosnia-Hercegovina Croats nor those of Muslims had the right to carry out mobilization but solely the state authorities in Sarajevo.

Bosnia-Hercegovina Croats and Muslims, who have been allies in the battle against Bosnia-Hercegovina Serbs, last month became engaged in mutual clashes in central Bosnia-Hercegovina, fighting for control of territories.

TANJUG: Izetbegovic Cease-Fire Order Not Specific

LD2102123493 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1217 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Text] Belgrade, Feb 21 (TANJUG)—Bosnian Moslem leader Alija Izetbegovic did not specify when the ceasefire he ordered on Saturday [20 February] to his troops, who have been involved in a civil and religious war against Bosnian Serbs and Croats in the former Yugoslav republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina over the past 11 months, would become effective.

Izetbegovic's order, announced by all Moslem-controlled media in Bosnia-Hercegovina, is a "unilateral ceasefire on all fronts in Bosnia-Hercegovina," foreign news agencies reported.

Izetbegovic called on United Nations Protection Forces (UNPROFOR) to monitor the ceasefire.

Izetbegovic also said, the news agencies reported, that he had suggested to the Moslem authorities in Sarajevo to end a nine-day boycott of United Nations relief supplies, the distribution of which was stopped at his order.

Bosnian Moslem leader Alija Izetbegovic nine days ago announced a boycott of distribution of all humanitarian aid in Sarajevo until aid convoy reached Moslem enclaves in the eastern part of the war-torn Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Government Calls on UN To Deliver Aid by Air

LD1902150793 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] Today's session of the Bosnia-Hercegovina Government, chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Zlatko Lagundzija, sent a letter to the UN Security Council requesting an urgent Security Council session.

The government demands that the council immediately adopt a decision to supply aid by air until an efficient aid delivery system is in place, and until the UN Protection Force [UNPROFOR] mandate is strengthened to ensure the implementation of the relevant resolutions on aid delivery.

The government also demands that an air bridge between Sarajevo and Tuzla be established, and that UNPROFOR be at the service of all charities wanting to deliver aid to Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Aid Airlift From Italy to Sarajevo Resumes

LD2202164393 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1626 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Text] Rome, Feb 22 (TANJUG)—The airlift between the Italian base Falconara (at Ancona) and Sarajevo resumed on Monday [22 February].

Three transport planes—one each from Germany, Canada and England—delivered food and other U.N. humanitarian aid to Bosnia, while the fourth plane encountered technical problems and was forced to return to Falconara.

The airlift was suspended last week after the Moslem authorities decided to stop distributing international aid to Sarajevo's citizens umtil relief reaches the Moslem population in the eastern part of the former Yugoslav republic.".

The airlift was suspended because the warehouses were full of aid and there was no room to stock the new food deliveries due to the Moslem authorities' decision.

157 People Die of Hunger, Cold in Srebrenica

AU1902210093 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Hercegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 19 Feb 93

[The Srebrenica War Presidency report]

[Text] During the last 48 hours in the subregion, 157 people have died of hunger, disease and the cold, 63 of whom were children. After last night's bombardment of Srebrenica, the aggressor pounded the town and Glogova throughout the day with multiple rocket launchers and tanks from (?Njemic) Hill in Serbia. Several hundred shells were fired, killing two and wounding three civilians.

130 People Die of Hunger in Zepa Area

LD2002200693 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Hercegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] Yesterday and today 85 elderly people and 35 children died from hunger in the Zepa area. The people of Zepa called for Sadako Ogata's urgent resignation describing her decision to stop the aid as shameful. They accused her of participating in genocide against Muslims of eastern Bosnia.

Red Cross Helps 350 Civilians Leave Sarajevo

LD1902235193 Belgrade Radio i Televizija Srpske Republike First Program Radio in Serbo-Croatian 2125 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] The Red Cross organized the departure of 350 civilians from Sarajevo today. There were 27 Serbs in this group and they decided to stay in the Serb territory of Ilidza.

Morillon Seeks Agreement on Lifting Sarajevo Siege

AU2202120493 Paris AFP in English 1155 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Text] Sarajevo, Feb 22 (AFP)—The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) will try to secure a lifting of the Serb siege of Sarajevo, the commander of the U.N. force said here Monday [22 February].

General Philippe Morillon said he would convene a meeting of military chiefs of the three Bosnian warring factions—Ratko Mladic for the Serb side, Milivoje Petkovic [chief of general staff of Croatian Defense Council Army] for the Croat side and Sefer Halilovic [chief of general staff of Bosnian Army] for the mainly Moslem government side to discuss prospects for ending the 10-month siege of the Bosnian capital.

French Minister Mediates Release of Detainees

LD2102110693 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 0805 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Text] Fifty-four Serb detainees held in Kiseljak have been released in accordance with an exchange organized by Bernard Kouchner, French minister of health and humanitarian action. The second half of the exchange, the release of 54 Muslims from the Serb run camp in (?Batkovic), is expected to take place soon.

Serb Side 'In Principle' Ready for Talks

LD2202170893 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1504 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Text] Belgrade, 22 Feburuary (TANJUG)—The main headquarters of the [Bosnia-Hercegovina] Serb Republic's Army "has been informed about a proposal for a meeting of the three warring sides next weekend."

In a telephone statement for TANJUG, Major General Milan Gvero, deputy commander of the Serb Republic's army, said that "the Serb side is, in principle, always ready for talks."

General Philippe Morillon, UN Protection Force commander for Bosnia-Hercegovina, announced today that the deblockade of Sarajevo will be discussed at these talks.

"The Serb side has negative experiences regarding previous talks with the representatives of Muslim and Croat forces' commands because they did not respect the agreements that were reached or signed," General Gvero stressed.

All that the Muslim and Croat sides have to do is to respect the agreements they signed and then it will not be necessary to "sign over a signature," Gvero said.

According to Gvero, it would not be "appropriate to discuss partial problems" while the New York talks on Bosnia-Hercegovina are in progress.

According to General Gvero, the term "deblockade of Sarajevo" itself is a "Muslim construction" which is unacceptable to the Serb side because Sarajevo is not a Muslim city and is not entirely Muslim-controlled.

Serbs May Attend New York Talks Without Karadzic

LD2202134393 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1238 GMT 22 Feb 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] Belgrade, Feb 22 (TANJUG)—A delegation of the Serbian Republic in Bosnia-Hercegovina will attend the next New York round of the talks on the former Yugoslav Republic, President of the Serbian Republic's Assembly Momcilo Krajisnik said on Monday [22 February].

The delegation is to leave for New York on Tuesday, but it is still uncertain whether President Radovan Karadzic will head it, Krajisnik said in a telephone statement to TANJUG. The dilemma is prompted by a number of reasons, including difficulties with the U.S. authorities and Karadzic's current obligations at home, Krajisnik added.

He said this had nothing to do with Bosnian Moslem leader Alija Izetbegovic's persistent rejection to come to New York for talks with the Serb side.

Bosnia-Hercegovina's Moslem-Croat presidency and some government members said after a session in Sarajevo on Sunday that a "Bosnia-Hercegovina state delegation" would travel to New York. The Moslem-controlled Sarajevo Radio carried a statement from the session, chaired by Izetbegovic, but did not specify who would make up the delegation.

The statement said the session discussed the "settlement of the crisis in Bosnia-Hercegovina under U.N. auspices," adding that the "future talks must be preceded by a stabilized humanitarian operation and an effective international control over artillery weapons."

Last Thursday, Serb representatives sent a letter to cochairmen of the conference on the former Yugoslavia Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen, calling for the talks to continue in Geneva. They said there were no "substantial reasons" for the talks to have been moved to New York.

Representatives of Bosnia's three peoples (Moslems, Serbs and Croats) have not been allowed to address the U.N. Security Council members, as previously agreed, said the letter. On the other hand, it added, the Serb delegation "was not treated in an equal way and was therefore handicapped in negotiations." The Serb delegation was exposed to various forms of pressure—from demonstrations to biased coverage in the Western media to the restrictions in issuing visas for its members.

The Serb delegation has not yet received the answer to its letter, but decided to attend the talks in New York.

Krajisnik said such decision was made at the consultations on [passage indistinct] that the Bosnian Serbs were committed to the talks.

Presidency Member on Continuation of Talks

AU2202153693 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Hercegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Interview with Mirko Pejanovic, member of the Bosnia-Hercegovina Presidency, by Nikola Bilic in Sarajevo; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Bilic] Dr. Pejanovic, we have already broadcast the statement from the session. I would like to ask you for a more detailed explanation of what is in this plan for the talks with the United States, taking into account that the U.S. Government has issued an invitation to President Izetbegovic to visit their country.

[Pejanovic] First of all, the Presidency and the government decided that Mr. Izetbegovic should accept the invitation and visit the United States. The program contains our [word indistinct] efforts to present to the United States our interests regarding the peace process and the preparations for the peace plan for Bosnia-Hercegovina. We will try to use these talks with the United States to get greater support for U.S. involvement in the establishment of peace in Bosnia-Hercegovina, that is, in stopping the war.

As for the other question on our activities, our views and our participation in the peace talks in New York, we have several points to make. The first is that, in the continuation of the talks, Bosnia-Hercegovina is to be represented by a state delegation whose members will be selected in the next few days. This delegation will be adjusted to the essence of the continuation of the talks in New York and its structure will represent Bosnia-Hercegovina in two important aspects: It will be a multiparty and multiethnic delegation, just as the Bosnia-Hercegovina authorities and ethnic structure are.

[Bilic] Peace is something that most people want, and the Bosnia-Hercegovina delegation will, of course, insist on it in the preparations for the peace agreement.

[Pejanovic] Our delegation will have the authority to contribute, that is, to sign the peace agreement, to contribute to the ending of the war, to ensure the ending of the war, and to have peace established in this region. Our delegation will persist on maintaining Bosnia-Hercegovina as symbolized by its international recognition, meaning within its internationally recognized borders; on maintaining it as a democratic state; decentralized in its internal structure; 10 provinces as envisioned by the Vance-Owen plan; and on keeping it a state of equal citizens, that is, a state in which there would be guarantees of human, ethnic and minority rights.

Our delegation will also particularly insist on guarantees by the international community, that is, the United Nations, so as to make the peace plan realistically achievable. That primarily means that there should be effective and complete control of heavy artillery in Bosnia-Hercegovina, that there should be advance international guarantees that refugees will be able to return to their homes in Bosnia-Hercegovina, and that international mechanisms will guarantee ethnic, human and minority rights.

Muslim-Croat State Delegation to Travel to New York

LD2102223393 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2132 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Text] Sarajevo, 21 Feb (TANJUG)—The Muslim-Croat Presidency of Bosnia-Hercegovina and some members of the government held a session in Sarajevo today and issued a statement saying that "at the New York talks Bosnia-Hercegovina will be represented by a state delegation," the Muslim Sarajevo radio reported this evening.

The statement from the session, chaired by Alija Izetbegovic, says that "the resolution of the crisis in Bosnia-Hercegovina under the auspices of the United Nations" was discussed, but it does not say who will be included in the "state delegation".

"Future talks must be preceeded by the stabilization of the aid deliveries to the threatened civilian population and by efficient control of the artillery by the international forces", the statement transmitted by the Muslim Sarajevo radio stresses.

UN Maps Show 'Clear Evidence' of Serb Gains

AU1902210493 Paris AFP in English 2045 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Sarajevo, Feb 19 (AFP)—A battle for the western gateway to Sarajevo continued Friday [19 February], with attacking Serb forces slugging it out with troops of the mainly Moslem Bosnian Army around a strategic crossroads between the city centre and the airport.

A map of the front lines in the Stup and Azici neghbourhoods drawn up by U.N. military observers backs up clear evidence that the Serbs are gaining ground.

The battle, raging since February 9, is worrying the population of Sarajevo in the 11th month of a siege which has seen relatively stable lines, with Serb gunners on surrounding mountainsides pounding the city with heavy guns but unable to break through Bosnian army infantry defence lines.

Elsewhere in the country, similar battles were taking place in the north, the northeast and east of the country.

Fighting was particularly intense around the north-eastern towns of Brcko and Gradacac, around Olovo, Doboj, Tuzla, Banovici, Tesanj and Maglaj in the north, and around Srebrenica and Cerska in the east, Radio Sarajevo reported. [passage omitted]

General Alert Sounded in Tuzla; City Under Attack

LD2002173893 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Hercegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Excerpts] A general alert was sounded twice in Tuzla today. Chetniks shelled Tuzla's urban districts again but fortunately there have been no casualties so far. Kalesija and liberated areas of Teocak and Zvornik municipalities were also shelled. [passage omitted] Just as I was about to send this despatch at 1615 a general alert was sounded as shells started falling on Tuzla again.

Serb Tank Fire Hits Sarajevo's Main Hospital

AU1802192293 Paris AFP in English 1921 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Sarajevo, Feb 18 (AFP)—Five tank shells crashed into the neurological surgery and pediatric surgery units of Sarajevo's Kosevo Hospital Thursday afternoon [18 February].

All inside escaped virtually unscathed, the only injuries being a few cuts as all the windows in the units blew in. [passage omitted]

Twenty other rounds fell around the two units, damaging other buildings in the sprawling hospital complex, staff said.

Observers said the shells were fired from the Mrkovici heights—held by Serb gunners—two or three kilometres (about a mile-and-a-half) northeast of the exposed hospital.

In the morning, a gunner scored a direct hit on a surgical clinic at the hospital, but no one was injured.

On Wednesday, a shell crashed through an outer concrete-block wall, across a passageway, and into the brick wall of an operating theatre. [passage omitted]

'Muslim Extremists' Attack Croat Towns

LD2102104993 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 0900 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Text] Muslim extremists attacked a number of Croatian villages between Prozor and Gornji Vakuf last night. According to the information supplied by the Croatian Defense Council [HVO] Cooperative Zone for northwest Hercegovina, Muslim forces opened fire from heavy artillery weapons after 2100 last night on the villages of Here and [name indistinct]. Attacks were launched 15 minutes later on the Croatian villages of Uzdol, Jurici, and Glibe from the direction of Here, Kute, and Pridvorci. A number of Croatian houses were set ablaze, but there have been no reports on casualties. HVO forces returned fire, and the attack stopped at about 0300 this morning.

Muslim-Croat Clashes Continue in Central Region

LD2202103793 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0941 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Text] Belgrade, 22 Feb (TANJUG)—Over the past few days, Kakanj and a number of other cities of central Bosnia have been the scenes of armed clashes between Croatian Defense Council [HVO] units and Muslim formations, but the information media on both sides have kept quiet about this conflict until now.

The Muslim-controlled Sarajevo Radio announced late last night that talks between representatives of the HVO and the so-called Army of Bosnia-Hercegovina were held in Kakanj yesterday with the mediation of the United Nations Protection Forces [UNPROFOR]. The HVO and the Bosnia-Hercegovina Army "appealed to the population of Kakanj after the meeting to stop shooting and burning houses and to allow refugees to return to their homes."

Nambiar Claims Situation Increasingly Difficult

LD2002165493 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1619 GMT 20 Feb 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] Belgrade, February 20 (TANJUG)—United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR) force commander Lieutenant-General Satish Nambiar assessed the current situation in the territory of the former Yugoslavia as being worse than a year ago, at the start of the United Nations' peacekeeping operation.

The reason for this are events in Bosnia-Hercegovina, as General Nambiar told TANJUG, adding that the roots of many difficulties lay in history.

General Nambiar said that UNPROFOR was back at the beginning, as far its mission was concerned—to keeping peace in the territories of the former Yugoslav Republic of Croatia with a majority Serbian population.

After a year of truce, Croatia launched an aggression against the United Nations protected Republic of Serbian Krajina on January 22.

Croatia continued attacks even after a U.N. Security Council resolution demanded it withdraw its troops to their initial positions.

All participants in the conflict are aware that the departure of the 'blue helmets' would mean a total disaster, said General Nambiar. The reason why all the sides agree that UNPROFOR should stay is that all of them want UNPROFOR to remain, but under conditions which they would determine.

General Nambiar underscored that there had been a lot of armed incidents in the past year, and that members of the peacekeeping forces had been victims, but that they had rarely been targeted directly.

U.N. Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali said on Friday that the Bosnian Muslim forces had purposely fired at French soldiers from the UNPROFOR contingent, killing one soldier and wounding three.

Dutch Corporal Killed in North of Country

AU1902192293 Paris AFP in English 1922 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] Sarajevo, Feb 19 (AFP)—A Dutch corporal serving with the U.N. Protection Force in Bosnia-Hercegovina was killed Thursday [18 February] when she fell out of a slow-moving truck, which then ran over her, U.N. officials reported Friday.

The corporal, whose name was not immediately released, was serving in a transport battalion, said spokesman Barry Frewer.

The accident happened at Kladanj, in the north of the country, Commander Frewer said.

5,000 Muslims, Croats Reportedly Held in Drvar Camp

AU1902161693 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Hercegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] The State Commission for the Exchange of War Prisoners has received reliable information that about 5,000 Muslim and Croatian men are being kept in a camp in Drvar.

Bosnia Hercegovina-Press has found out from the same source that, since the huge media outcry over the alleged closing down of the Manjaca camp, this camp has received new prisoners. This information comes in connection with the evidence provided by the refugees from Banja Luka and surrounding places that, in the occupied territory, Muslims have been arrested after curfew and then taken to an unknown destination.

Kamenica Commune Denies Massacre of Serbs

AU1902135893 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Hercegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1200 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] The Kamenica Information Service sent us a statement today denying the report broadcast by Belgrade Radio on 18 February about the alleged discovery of a grave of Serbian civilians in Glodjansko Brdo. According to Belgrade Radio, the civilians were taken deep into the Zvornik territory and killed. As stated by the Kamenica Information Service, this is yet another in the series of lies broadcast on Belgrade Radio and the so-called Serbian Radio Zvornik.

The truth is that this grave is a grave in which Serbian soldiers, volunteers from the village around Zvornik, Sekovici, Kasna, Lukavac, Zivinice, and other places from Serbia and Montenegro were buried properly. They were killed in direct clashes with fighters of the army of Bosnia-Hercegovina on 6 November last year during the battle for the liberation of Kamenica.

The dead soldiers were members of the enemy formations that killed 150 innocent civilians in October and at the beginning of November and burned 5,800 buildings in the southern part of Zvornik commune.

We have documentation for the majority of the dead fighters and it can be inspected by the appropriate institutions at any time.

This was stated by the Kamenica Information Service.

TANJUG Details Croat, Muslim 'Torture'

LD2202103293 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0940 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Text] Belgrade, February 22 (TANJUG)—The documentation centre of the office of commissioner for refugees of the Serbian Republic in Bosnia-Hercegovina has collected new data about the abuse of women, children and other civilians by Croatian and Muslim troops in the former Yugoslav republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina. The centre has taped the testimonies of surviving victims—Serbian women held captive at Odzak, northern Bosnia-Hercegovina.

The Serbian women held at the Odzak prison were raped before their husbands and children, according to the testimony given by the victims.

One of the most horrendous scenes described by one of the survivors the abuse of children by Muslim and Croatian troops before the eyes of their mothers [sentence as received]. "They banged the children against the wall so that they would faint from hitting the head," one of the eyewitnesses said.

The documentation centre has taped also the accounts of two sisters from [word indistinct], who were taken prisoner on May 15 last year and taken to an improvised prison at the school in Odzak, where they were subjected to terrible physical and (?mental) torture.

The males who were held in the same prison separately from the women and children were terribly beaten. The women were raped and maltreated, regardless of age.

The torturers were intoxicated in most of the cases, according to eyewitness accounts.

"They stepped up torture when their army was losing territories on the front," one of the women which has survived the hell at Odzak said.

Civilians in Mostar Rob UN Soldiers of Weapons

AU1902212293 Paris AFP in English 2040 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] Sarajevo, Feb 19 (AFP)—Four civilians confronted two U.N. soldiers in the southern Bosnia-Hercegovina city of Mostar Thursday [18 February] and stole their rifles, a Croat forces spokesman reported Friday.

The civilians then made off in a car.

The spokesman said the car's licence plate had been noted. He did not report what the soldiers' superiors had to say to them.

Serbs Warn of Coup Against Izetbegovic

LD2202140393 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1144 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Text] Belgrade, February 22 (TANJUG)—A putsch is being prepared against the Bosnian Moslem leader as the Moslem leadership in Bosnia-Hercegovina is splitting up, the Army of the Serb Republic in Bosnia-Hercegovina has said.

"According to the plan, Alija Izetbegovic is to be put in isolation and Bosnia-Hercegovina (Moslem) Army commander Sefer Halilovic liquidated, which would deal a heavy blow to the fundamentalist wing of the Moslem leadership." Belgrade press on Monday [22 February] carried a statement by the Serb Republic's Army headquarters.

According to the statement, Fikret Abdic, member of the Presidency of the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina who withdrew from the Presidency a year ago, is to head a future puppet state. Halilovic is to be replaced by Arif Pasalic, commander of the Bosnia-Hercegovina Army's 4th Corps which is to carry out the putsch. Both Abdic and Pasalic are "unreserved supporters of alliance between Croatia and Bosnia-Hercegovina."

The statement said those planning the putsch, including Josep Manolic—the head of Croatia's Council for Protection of the Constitutional Order—and Croatian Defence Minister Gojko Susak, found "the present moment suitable."

On the Moslem side, the plan was masterminded by Abdic and Pasalic together with Alija Delamustafic, "former interior minister of Bosnia-Hercegovina," the statement said.

The highest circulation Italian daily CORRIERE DELLA SERA on February 16 said there might be a putsch against Izetbegovic, who "has become extremely radical." Italian economic-political daily IL SOLE wrote the same that Izetbegovic was "sharply condemned by his military leadership for allegedly being ready to yield and negotiate on the division of Bosnia."

General Acknowledges 'Dirty War for Profits'

AU1902094393 Hamburg DIE ZEIT in German 19 Feb 93 p 3

[Interview with General Jovan Divjak, deputy commander in chief of the Bosnian armed forces, by Dietrich Willier; place and date not given: "A War for Profits"]

[Text] [Willier] The people in Sarajevo have become indifferent to the grenades from the mountains. They no longer run for their lives. Have they already lost all hope?

[Divjak] No. But the people are disappointed about the behavior of civilized Europe. Medical aid, for instance, has been far less than they had promised, and we are suffering very much under the conditions of this winter. But our optimism is not in danger. We are not yet thinking of collective suicide, and the worst is already behind us.

[Williers] The talks on the Owen-Vance peace plan are not making any progress. Have you ever thought that these talks would be successful?

[Divjak] Even before the talks I said they would be doomed to failure. Because in Geneva no one really accepted Bosnia as an independent state. On the contrary, they have permitted the presidents of Croatia and Serbia, Franjo Tudjman and Slobodan Milosevic, to divide Bosnia between themselves, just like the two had long agreed on. At the talks Vance and Owen just treated us like savages who need a guardian and who can be satisfied with a bit of chocolate.

[Williers] Could Bosnia be helped by a military intervention?

[Divjak] I expected a military intervention months ago. I think a limited military intervention in Bosnia would be possible. As a soldier, I think the only effective intervention would have to be like the one in Iraq: with air raids against the Serbian missile positions, artillery, and airports. I am just afraid that Russia will prevent a resolution for intervention in the UN Security Council with its veto. Unfortunately, the German chancellor's recommendation to lift the arms embargo is also a senseless solution, because it would just prolong the war and would not change anything else.

[Williers] Commanders from the Tuzla region report that they have made the lack of heavy weapons for strategic fighting a virtue and have acquired guerrilla weapons. Has the guerrilla war of the next few years already started in Bosnia?

[Divjak] The situation between northern Bosnia and Sarajevo is very different. The attackers have a stable front line around Sarajevo; in addition, the "ethnic cleansing" in the hinterland has already been enforced and thus the guerrilla fighters have been deprived of any support among the people. On the other hand, we lack artillery and antitank weapons for a conventional war. Thus, from the very beginning we were forced to wage

some sort of guerrilla war to hit targets far behind our enemies' lines. Frequently, this is a war that lasts a very long time.

[Williers] Many people, not only in Sarajevo, have meanwhile become almost as bitter about the looting, blackmail, robberies, and murder committed by criminal gangs and about the business of Croatian and Muslim profiteers as about the grenades fired by the Serbian aggressors.

[Divjak] This is true. But it is also true that it was thanks to these criminal groups that it was possible to defend Sarajevo at all during the first weeks of the war. They were the only ones who had weapons and they supplied others with weapons. However, these gangs have been allowed to do what they want for far too long. Unfortunately, we know that dirty money is playing a very big role in this war. In fact, the profiteers and criminal gangs are an important reason why Sarajevo is still blocked. Another reason is that the Bosnian army is not supported by the armed gangs outside the city. There, in the villages of Jablanica or Kiseljak, people live much better now than before the war. They do not want Sarajevo to be liberated.

It is a sad fact that our war is only a dirty war for profits. The Bosnian Croats in Hercegovina are best at that. Almost all ships with goods, which we have paid for, are stopped on the Dalmatian coast; 50 percent of the goods are impounded. Last month we were supposed to get 6,000 tonnes of diesel fuel—one-third of it was seized by the Bosnian-Croatian forces. Many private persons and businessmen have already become rich because of the victims of this war. We still do not know how we should act in such a dirty war. That is why it is taking so long, and we have so terribly many victims. We can see all this, but it does not change our hope that everything will come to an end some time.

Tudjman, Ozal Hold News Conference

LD2102094793 Zagreb HTV Television in Serbo-Croatian 1923 GMT 20 Feb 93

[News conference given in the Presidential Palace in Zagreb by Croatian President Franjo Tudjman and Turkish President Turgut Ozal; Ozal speaks in English with simultaneous translation into Serbo-Croatian—live]

[Excerpts] [Ozal] Distinguished members of the press, I am very happy to be here in Croatia. Before coming to Zagreb I visited Sofia, Skopje, and Tirana. A great part of our discussions with the leaders of those countries were of course concentrated on the critical situation in the Balkans. During our talks in the countries I mentioned we agreed on the need to stop the Serb aggression in Bosnia. We expressed our support for the new American initiative. We all expressed our concern that if the Serbian aggression is not stopped in Bosnia-Hercegovina there is a great danger of the extension of the conflict in Kosovo, Macedonia, and Sandzak.

During our talks with President Tudjman we took up all these questions. I was happy to note that he shares our concerns regarding the situation in Bosnia and the Serb threat for the whole region. Of course Croatia has a particular importance in this respect. It is a frontline state. Its problems with Serbia have yet to be solved. There is a substantial Croatian population in Bosnia-Hercegovina. Therefore the Croatian approach to these questions is of particular importance.

During our talks with President Tudjman I conveyed to him our hope that the cooperation between Croatia and Bosnia would be much more intensive and any disagreement between them would be solved without further delay. I conveyed to him the Bosnian desire to come to terms with Croatia. I understand they are ready to recognize the rights of Croats in the state of Bosnia-Hercegovina. I told President Tudjman that such cooperation would help develop practical solution and efforts to establish a permanent peace in this region. Any other solution which would be against Bosnian interest would prolong the agony, instability, and it would help the chauvinistic Serbian ambitions.

I was satisfied to see that President Tudjman shared our views on these questions. I also told President Tudjman that we will always be ready to do our best to bring the two sides together so they can solve all their possible disagreements. During my visit to Zagreb I also paid a visit to a Bosnian refugee camp and I hope that these camps will not become permanent as Palestinian refugee camps. Such tragedies cannot be tolerated in the middle of Europe. We also discussed this situation with President Tudjman. We understand the difficulties of Croatia and we will try to make these problems easier by involving other countries.

Our relation with Croatia has always been close. We recognized Croatia in February 1992 and we established diplomatic relations soon after that. We will exchange ambassadors soon. We had high-level visits from Croatia. We had followed with great admiration Croatian steps to establish democracy and a free-market economy under the leadership of President Tudjman. We were visited by Croatian Foreign Minister Skrabalo and the Speaker of the Croatian parliament Mesic. These contacts and others help us to gain a better understanding of the region and to lay the basis for development of our relations. We are aware of the potential of our economic and commercial relations and I am confident that we will be able to improve our relations especially once the problems in the region are solved. I hope that Croatia will then also be able to participate in the financial and economic cooperation which could include all Balkan states and make this region an area of democracy, peaceful cooperation and prosperity.

This vision gave me an opportunity to establish a very constructive dialogue with your President Tudjman. I am hoping to receive him in Turkey so that we can continue our consultations on the development in our region as well as the development of our bilateral relations. Thank you.

[Tudjman] We attach the greatest importance to the visit of President Ozal and regard it most highly. This visit follows the visit to Turkey of the president of the Croatian Assembly, as President Ozal mentioned, and of the [Croatian] minister of foreign affairs, and constitutes at this moment in time a strengthening of cooperation between Turkey and Croatia at the highest level. We have agreed on a bilateral basis on the formation of a joint economic committee for bilateral cooperation between Croatia and Turkey and also for joint operations in countries in which Croatia and Turkey, Turkey in particular, in the independent countries which have been formed on the soil of the former USSR. [incomplete sentence as heard] In this regard the visit itself is of great importance and we consider that economic relations in all areas, in the area of cooperation between our firms, in the area of tourism, trade, and with regard to other countries, in joint enterprises, will be developed to our mutual benefit.

Obviously a great part of our talks was devoted, as President Ozal mentioned, to the main problem of not only southeast Europe, but of Europe and the world, and that is the problem of the crisis, the war crisis in Bosnia-Hercegovina. We agreed that both Croatia and Turkey would do everything to achieve above all, with the help of the international community, the end of the war as soon as possible, but also to achieve complete cooperation between Croats and Muslims both while the war [which has been going on] since the first aggression continues and also in the search for a political solution for future relations within Bosnia-Hercegovina which would satisfy all three constituent nations.

We consider, we are in complete agreement, that cooperation between Croats and Muslims is important not

only for the solution of the present war crisis in Bosnia-Hercegovina but also for the solution of the general crisis on the soil of former Yugoslavia and for the creation of the prerequisites for a lasting peace in this part of Europe.

I was particularly pleased to receive an invitation from President Ozal to visit Turkey in the near future with a larger delegation and with specific plans for the realization, the completion of what we have discussed today with regard to economic and other issues.

[News Conference Chairwoman] Thank you, Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen, you may ask questions.

[Turkish correspondent (Cengis) Candar in English, followed by Serbo-Croatian translation] I would address my question to President Tudjman. As we understand it, Croatia has a positive attitude to the Vance-Owen plan for the cessation of hostilities in Bosnia-Hercegovina. However, that is undermined by the new American initiative. What is Croatia's stand with regard to the initiatives of Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen [cochairman of the Conference on Yugoslavia] and this particular one?

[Tudjman] We consider that the Vance-Owen plan represents a basis for the solution of the Bosnia-Hercegovina crisis and for our part we will do everything so that, with possible modifications, a final solution is reached as soon as possible.

[Unidentified correspondent] [question and translation indistinct]

[Ozal] I think that your statement is not correct. We might have some problems with Belgrade, but not with Russia.

[Unidentified correspondent] I would like to ask Mr. Ozal: Recently in Ankara there has been talk of an initiative to assist the solution of the problems in Bosnia-Hercegovina. Does Mr. Ozal have a clearer picture after this Balkan tour and what does this initiative consist of?

[Ozal] I have already talked to President Tudjman about my evaluation after this tour of various Balkan countries. I came to the conclusion, and very strongly, probably more strongly than before, that if the conflict, the war in Bosnia-Hercegovina is not stopped, this conflict would naturally spread to other parts of the Balkans, to Kosovo, Macedonia, probably Sandzak. That will bring far greater danger. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent in English, followed by Serbo- Croatian translation] President Ozal, it looks as if Croatia has agreed to prolong the UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force] mandate here, but only until 31 March. It is completely clear that if UNPROFOR withdraws after that date, a final conflict between Croatia and Serbia will take place. Have you discussed any military cooperation between Croatia and Turkey at all?

[Ozal] I think that it is up to Croatia to give permission to the UN forces; we have not discussed it. I am convinced, however, that President Tudjman will do the right thing at that time.

[Unidentified correspondent in English] A question for President Ozal: Did you have a chance to meet representatives of Bosnia-Hercegovina in the course of these visits?

[Ozal] Yes, I met them—some of them in Zagreb—and had talks with them for 45 minutes or so. I also have contacted them during my visits in the United States. Unfortunately, I could not meet Alija Izetbegovic because he could not leave Sarajevo at that time.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Ozal, you said that you have talked about the American initiative. How much is the current U.S. administration informed about your visit here? How much support does it give you?

[Ozal] I knew before coming here, even before the American initiative was announced. I had talks with President Bill Clinton, and he told me that they would take some initiatives regarding this serious problem. It is difficult, however, to judge what they are thinking. I told President Tudjman what I believe they are thinking, but this is all conjecture. We will see after contacts with their representatives, with different people, what their opinion really is.

[Unidentified correspondent in English, followed by Serbo- Croatian translation] Mr. President, could you tell me how many Bosnia-Hercegovina refugees there are in Turkey at the moment, and how many more do you think you can accept?

[Ozal] I think we do not know exactly how many of them there are. The figure is changing. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent in English, followed by Serbo-Croatian translation] President Ozal, a question from Reuter. You said you are even more worried now than before this tour of the four countries. You said you were afraid that war could spread to other parts of the Balkans. What did you learn in the four capitals that you visited to make you even more convinced that there is the risk of a wider war?

[Ozal] Let me tell you. More information for the people is coming from the press today. I mean it is not coming from the embassies of various countries. We have some very good information coming from the media. I do not think, however, that the media is everywhere in the former Yugoslavia. I do not think you are in Kosovo, and I do not think you are in Sandzak, and all those places that I was very close to when I visited these countries: Macedonia, Albania. Part of Macedonia is near Kosovo, and I talked to the people of Kosovo who visited me both in Macedonia and also in Albania. I saw some people, some leaders, of Sandzak. All these talks showed that there is definitely a much bigger situation than what media tells us.

[Sami Koen in English, followed by Serbo-Croatian translation] Sami Koen, Milliyet, Turkey. President Tudjman, you said that it is very important for Muslims and Croats to cooperate closely. However, we have seen in recent weeks or months that they have differences and that they have even fought each other. Could you tell us something about your plans to improve this situation, to create conditions for close cooperation between the two sides?

[Tudjman] These clashes between Muslims and Croats in Bosnia- Hercegovina are side effects, when you take into consideration the general cooperation existing between Muslims and Croats in Bosnia-Hercegovina. As you know, there is an agreement between Croatia and Bosnia-Hercegovina—between President Izetbegovic and me. It is a friendship and cooperation agreement, including military cooperation in border areas. We are doing everything possible to help Bosnia in the resistance it is offering to the aggressor. We are also trying to help Muslims and Croats to reach an agreement on cooperation in all areas—both military and political. This agreement would ensure cooperation not only in resistance to the Serb aggression but also in trying to find a future constitutional solution for Bosnia-Hercegovina that would satisfy all the sides.

I think that these sporadic clashes, caused by some extremist elements but also provocations, cannot threaten Muslim-Croat cooperation, especially after the talks we held today and at which we agreed that President Ozal and Turkey on one side and we on the other will attempt to eliminate all disagreements and to establish full cooperation in all areas.

[Ozal] Let me add a few words. We see Bosnian Muslims and Croats as natural allies, today and in the future.

[Unidentified correspondent] I would like to ask President Tudjman a question. What can you expect from Turkey with regard to efforts to resolve the crisis in Bosnia-Hercegovina—a tragedy that has befallen this part of the world?

[Tudjman] We cannot expect anything specific, but we can expect that President Ozal and Turkey will use their great influence so that an agreement on all controversial issues can be reached. There is an agreement between us, as President Ozal said, that Muslims and Croats are natural allies in the present aggression. It is in their interest to eliminate all disagreements in order to ensure stable peace in this part of Europe and also economic and all other prosperity in Croatia and Bosnia-Hercegovina. This is a result not only of historic but also of geopolitical reasons.

[Chairwoman] And now the last question.

[Unidentified correspondent] President Tudjman, forgive me for asking the question once again. Given that you could not speak about military cooperation because of the embargo, can you at least tell us whether you discussed security cooperation. Can you tell us something about it? It is obvious that Croatia is expecting something in this area. Thank you.

[Tudjman] Above all, we discussed cooperation in securing the distribution of humanitarian aid. It goes without saying that we also discussed the fact that Croatia should be given aid in keeping with the UN General Assembly resolution on accommodating and caring for half a million refugees from Bosnia-Hercegovina, in addition to the 300,000 refugees from the areas occupied by the Serbo-Communist army and Serb rebels now under UN control. We discussed ways to strengthen the present Muslim and Croatian defense, halt the aggression and achieve peace. Finally, we discussed solutions that would not be temporary but permanent, as President Ozal mentioned.

[Chairwoman] President Ozal, President Tudjman, thank you very much. We now end the news conference.

Tudjman, Turkey's Ozal Demand End to Bosnia War

LD2102205793 Zagreb HTV Television in Serbo-Croatian 1830 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Text] Presidents Tudjman and Ozal released a joint press statement today. We present it in its entirety:

The two presidents exchanged views on a large number of pressing problems in southeast Europe and the Balkans and discussed relations between the two countries. They stress that since Croatia won its independent and international recognition, the republics of Croatia and Turkey have maintained friendly relations. Both countries are willing to continue their efforts to advance their political and economic cooperation. The presidents agree that the position within the region of the two countries as well as their economic potentials will pave the way for cooperation and mutual benefit, and this is an important element for stability and development in the region. They have also agreed on the establishment of a joint committee for mutual economic cooperation. The Republic of Turkey will help the Republic of Croatia as much as it can to shoulder the huge burden of caring for and providing aid for the large number of refugees on its territory and will make great efforts to motivate other countries and international institutions to provide aid.

Both presidents share extreme concern regarding the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina, where the forces of the self-styled Serb Republic, supported by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, are carrying on with their aggression, which has claimed great human losses, and also carrying out ethnic cleansing and other crimes against international humanitarian law despite the efforts of the UInited Nations and the international community to put an end to these attacks on a UN member—the sovereign, independent and internationally recognized Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Presidents Tudjman and Ozal fully support the new U.S. initiative for Bosnia-Hercegovina, while bearing in mind the improvements on the Vance-Owen plan and the conclusions of the conference on the former Yugoslavia. Presidents Tudjman and Ozal call on the Croats and Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina to put an end to their disputes and join in the defense against the Serb aggressor. The presidents demand that the Croats and Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina reach agreement on an internal constitutional organization of the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina that will protect the positions of all three constituent peoples and guarantee their national and ethnic rights as well as human rights for all Bosnia-Hercegovina's citizens and will protect the unity, integrity, and sovereignty of the state.

The presidents also agreed that they will work together and make serious efforts to facilitate an immediate end to the war in Bosnia-Hercegovina as a precondition for regional and global peace and security.

President Tudjman has accepted President Ozal's invitation to visit the Republic of Turkey in the near future. The visit will mark yet another step in the development of good relations between the two friendly countries.

Turkish Foreign Ministry, Army Representatives Meet

LD2002202393 Zagreb HTV Television in Serbo-Croatian 1830 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Excerpt] [Croatian] Deputy Foreign Minister Ivo Sanader had talks in the Foreign Ministry with representatives of the Turkish Foreign Ministry, led by the Turkish president's advisor (Semirh Ozmert). The topics included the UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force] and the UN Security Council. The Turkish side said that the United Nations must be more efficient in the resolving of the crisis in Bosnia-Hercegovina. The guests also said that Serbia's policy was the main cause of the war and the crimes. Croatia recognizes the sovereignty of Bosnia-Hercegovina and will support all solutions based on equal rights for the three constituent nations, Sanader said.

Meanwhile, a Croatian delegation consisting of Bobetko, Tus , Agotic [members of the Croatian National Defense Council], Domazet [head of Information Administration of Croatian general staff], and Tispe [not further identified] had talks in Zagreb with Generals Kupeli and Gula, the deputy chief of the General staff and the commander of the Air Force. The guests said they had talks in Bulgaria, Albania, and Macedonia about the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

The Turkish Army representatives said that relations with Croatia are very good and friendly. The talks were held behind closed doors. [passage omitted]

Tudjman, Bosnian Officials Discuss Relations

LD2102194593 Zagreb HTV Television in Serbo-Croatian 1830 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Text] We have just received a report that Croatian President Dr. Franjo Tudjman this evening received Bosnia-Hercegovina Presidency members Ejup Ganic and Hasan Cengic. They held talks on relations between Croats and Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina and the need to remove all disagreements between the two nations. The talks were also attended by Defense Minister Gojko Susak.

Army Court Indicts HOS Leaders on Terrorist Charges

AU1902145393 Paris AFP in English 1435 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] Zagreb, Feb 19 (AFP)—A Croatian military court has indicted the leader of an extreme rightwing nationalist group, Dobroslav Paraga, on charges of terrorism for forming an armed militia, HINA news agency reported Friday [19 February].

Three other members of Paraga's Croatian Rights Party (HSP), Ante Dzapic, Mile Dedakovic and Ante Prkacin, already face the same charges and will be tried along with their leader, HINA said.

The indictment, handed down Thursday, accused Paraga of forming the Armed Croatian Forces (HOS), a private militia which has fought against Serbs in Croatia and to defend Croatian-held territory in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

The charges say the four men, by creating the HOS, "endangered the constitutional order" with the ultimate aim of "seizing civilian and military power in Croatia."

Paraga and Dzapic were also charged with publicly accusing Croatian President Franjo Tudjman of "selling Croatian territory."

The charges also include the illegal detention of a large quantity of explosives in the basement of the HSP headquarters here for use in alleged terrorist actions.

Krajina President Comments on New York Talks

AU1902214093 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 2100 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] The delegation of the Republic of Serbian Krajina led by Goran Hadzic will hold talks tonight in New York with Vitaliy Churkin, Russian Federation envoy to the talks on the crisis in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Goran Hadzic, president of the republic of Serbian Krajina, expressed his satisfaction with his talks so far with Vance and Owen [Conference on Yugoslavia cochairmen] in New York. According to what Hadzic told the ISKRA agency, the Krajina delegation is in cooperative and friendly surroundings. Obviously pressed by the international public, Croatia has agreed to

pull back its troops, but according to Hadzic, it tried to organize it so that the territory from which it pulls back is not controlled by the Krajina forces, but by the United Nations.

Slobodan Jarcevic, foreign minister of the republic of Serbian Krajina, told ISKRA that Vance and Owen had tried to persuade the Serbian delegation to accept that, with the remark that Krajina would actually be internationally recognized by that. [sentence as heard] We replied, Jarcevic said, that it would actually be a secession of a part of our territory, and we adamantly maintained our ground, stressing that only the unconditional withdrawal of Croatia is the basis for the continuation of talks.

Also, talks were rejected on the so-called pink zones since, according to the delegation of the republic of Serbian Krajina, that would mean the slow return of Croatian authority to those territories.

Serbs Resist Croatian Demands at Talks

AU2102203793 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Telephone interview with Goran Hadzic, president of the Republic of Serbian Krajina, in New York by Dusan Tomasevic in the Belgrade studio—live]

[Text] [Tomasevic] Mr. Hadzic, what did the Croatian side actually demand?

[Hadzic] The Croats (?created a problem) and demanded that after their unconditional withdrawal from the occupied territories the authority over the liberated territories would go to the UN Protection Force [UNPROFOR] rather than to us. We cannot agree to this, and we will be clear in our position. Tomorrow evening, Yugoslav time, we expect the results of these additional talks, which will wrap up our New York activities.

Croatian Ambassador Nobilo said in the United Nations that they would have to accept UN Security Council Resolution 802 unconditionally. Therefore, all these parallel talks were an expression of goodwill on our behalf to make the situation easier for them. However, we have yielded enough, and we no longer have any intention of yielding.

[Tomasevic] You are referring to the delegation of the Serbian Republic agreeing that Maslenica Bridge, Zemunik Airport, and Peruca Dam be put under UNPROFOR's control, Mr. Hadzic?

[Hadzic] Yes. This is sufficient from our side, and I believe that it is reasonable to agree to Maslenica Bridge being opened for civilian traffic. This would to a degree eliminate the reasons that, according to [Croatian President] Tudjman [words indistinct] (?aggression) against our republic. We will now see whether these were the actual (?reasons) or whether there was something else involved. They now hold the locations that they fought for.

[Tomasevic] Therefore, their objectives have been realized. However, what ensues in the political sphere now? What do you expect will happen tomorrow?

[Hadzic] I expect renewed pressure to agree to something more, which we definitely cannot do until Resolution 802 has been realized, and Croatia has withdrawn unconditionally. However, with Point Three of this agreement, which everybody had accepted, we embraced talks and negotiations as a method of resolving problems that would follow after the negotiations in New York. There is no reason to debate (?this) in great length tomorrow. We must attend the subsequent joint meetings in Geneva and until 21 March, when the decision on a final extension of UNPROFOR's mandate will be passed, roughly take the first step toward a political solution that would provide [UN Secretary General] Butrus Ghali with a go-ahead signal to propose an extension of UNPROFOR's mandate.

[Tomasevic] Thank you very much!

[Hadzic] Thank you, and good night!

Serb Leaders Say Croatia To Grant Access to Coast

LD2002123993 Belgrade SRNA in Serbo-Croatian 1015 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] The Republic of Croatia agrees to withdraw its army from all territories of the Republic of Serbian Krajina, including Zemunik airport [Zadar airport], the hydroelectric dam of Peruca, and the Miljevac plateau, provided the area around the Maslenica bridge is placed under the UN's control, Republic of Serbian Krajina President Goran Hadzic told Knin radio. In Hadzic's words, the Croatian delegation at the New York talks offered the Republic of Serbian Krajina access to the coast from the direction of Lika along the Karlobag-Gospic-Lika line or along the line of Starigrad-Paklenica-Alan-Gracac.

The Republic of Serbian Krajina's delegation accepted all dialogues except the proposition that the Maslenica bridge be placed under the UN's control, as it believes that such an arrangement would not represent total withdrawal. Hadzic believes that this is a positive development that, however, should not be a cause for euphoria since Croatia obviously must be forced into a total and unconditional withdrawal.

Hadzic Denies Saying Croats Agreed to Proposals

AU1902171093 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Statement by Goran Hadzic, president of the Serbian republic of Krajina, in New York; date not given—recorded]

[Text] On the occasion of the report that Goran Hadzic, president of the Republic of Serbian Krajina, said that the Croatian side to the negotiations in New York agreed

with almost all proposals, that is, demands of the delegation of the Republic of Serbian Krajina, President Goran Hadzic made a special statement for Belgrade Radio, in which he said the following:

[Begin Hadzic recording] I do not know how, in what [pauses] how and in what way this was announced, but we have not negotiated with the Croatian side and we have not presented demands to the Croatian side, but we have given these demands to, well, this working group for the former Croatia, the cochairmen. They have accepted. That was their assent. And as regards Croatia, well, yesterday we received a report on the meeting between the Croatian side and this group of ours, the cochairmen: Croatia agreed to a large part of these proposals, they only wanted our authority not to be established on the occupied territory either [as heard], but that this should be a territory controlled by UN forces. We have not agreed to that, we turned that down in the form of an ultimatum, we are not even going to discuss that, and now, we expect [word indistinct] at (?ten) to hear the information and what Croatia has agreed to in this respect.

However, in our opinion, Croatia cannot agree to anything, it has been declared by the United Nations to be an aggressor, an aggressor against the republic of Serbian Krajina and the UN forces. Croatia should not be allowed to accept anything or decide on anything, it must unconditionally implement Resolution 802. [end recording]

Arkan Reportedly Ordered To Leave Krajina

LD2102211593 Zagreb HTV Television in Serbo-Croatian 1830 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Video report from Biograd by reporter V. Roncevic]

[Text] The enemy attacked villages in the Zadar hinterland also today from their positions in Debelo Brdo, Kula Atlagic, Biljane, and Muskovci. A general alert is, therefore, still in force in Zadar and in Biograd which came under attack from multiple rocket launchers this afternoon. Because of the constant enemy attacks, the Croatian Army was compelled to return fire, which resulted in the neutralization of the Serb rebels' attacks and in considerable losses in manpower. However, the fruitless daily attacks have not been counted only in losses in manpower, but also in disorganization within the enemy ranks, which the Serb Knin television news shows very well. The rebels themselves finally realized what is actually at work there:

[Female announcer in Serb Knin television studio shown reading out the following] The commander of the general staff of the Army of the Republic of Serb Krajina has issued an order saying that Mr. Zeljko Raznjatovic [Arkan] should leave the territory of Krajina because of his interference in our politics and incorrect behavior towards the local population. [Krajina Interior] Minister Milan Martic told us today.

[Roncevic] Martic was compelled to adopt this decision not only because of unsuccessful attempts by Arkan troops to break the separation line which the Croatian Army has been firmly holding, but also because of the waywardness of the ex-hero Arkan whose involvement in the replacements in the police administration of the self-styled Krajina in Vukovar was the last straw.

[Female announcer in Serb Knin television studio shown reading out the following] The replacement of police members in Vukovar was carried out in a completely illegal way, and for calculated political ends. It is untrue that it was all done because of the alleged dissatisfaction of a spontaneous group with the work of the police administration. A putsch of its own kind was carried out by underground forces under the command of Zeljko Raznjatovic-Arkan. This was stated today by Krajina Minister of Internal Affairs Milan Martic when asked what had recently happened in Vukovar. Minister Martic stressed that it was an action which had been prepared for a long time and which should have caused chaos in Krajina. Therefore, we are not going to allow Arkan or anybody else to behave in an illegal way. This is not the first time that they have meddled in affairs for which they have not been authorized.

[Roncevic] Out of their great strategies, the enemy have been left with only civilian targets and internal confrontations, and as regards the authorities, it seems that they have, to put it mildly, been intertwined.

Vukovar Officials, Krajina Assistant Minister Dismissed

LD1802202493 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1510 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] Vukovar, 18 Feb (TANJUG)—The Vukovar Secretariat for Internal Affairs, as stated today, has so far been fully carrying out its obligations toward the institutions of the legal system on this territory, and it has proper documentation to support this. The service has always been acting in line with the existing legal regulations of the Republic of Serb Krajina [RSK].

From the time when the state of war was proclaimed in Krajina until 5 February, 61 criminal acts have been reported and 13 perpetrators have been detained in the investigative jail in Beli Manastir. A group of armed officials, escorted by about 200 armed men, one of which took over the control of the communication lines, blocked approaches to and entered the building of the Vukovar Secretariat for Internal Affairs around noon two days ago.

On that occasion, a request was made on behalf of the Defense Ministry's Vukovar department to immediately dismiss the leadership of the RSK Ministry for Internal Affairs for Slavonia, Baranja, and western Srem and the leadership of the Vukovar Secretariat for Internal Affairs

for alleged refusal to cooperate with the Vukovar department of the Defense Ministry.

At a hastily convened extraordinary session of the Vukovar municipal government, which was attended by RSK Deputy Prime Minister Stevo Bogic, government member Zeljko Raznjatovic Arkan [republic of Serbia parliamentary deputy from Kosovo], and Assistant Defense Minister Milan Milanovic, the assistant interior minister for Slavonia, Baranja, and western Srem, Ilija Kojic, and other security and local officials were dismissed. This was done, as explained "because they were obstructing the work of the local secretariat for internal affairs and because they failed to carry out their duties in a satisfactory way."

The secretariat for internal affairs is functioning normally, but it is necessary for the RSK political institutions to make their views about this event known as soon as possible.

'Rift' in Krajina Leadership Analyzed

AU2202130093 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 20-21 Feb 93 p 4

[Report by S.R. "Martic's Men Replaced in Vukovar"]

[Text] Knin— There was no official reaction yesterday from the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Serbian Krajina to the recent events in Vukovar, where Ilija Kojic, deputy minister of internal affairs for Slavonija, Baranja and western Srem, and several other officials from the ministry of internal affairs and the secretariat for internal affairs were replaced. Circles close to the government of the Republic of Serbian Krajina in Knin say that those replaced were "Martic's men," which shows that the rift in the Krajina leadership has spread to another level and one is yet to see what the reactions and moves will be of both sides.

BORBA has also found out that the government's program of Radio Television of Krajina should soon start broadcasting from Gracac from the transmitter "Baldy" [Celavac], and will thus be received in most of Krajina, while Radio Television Knin will be prevented from using this transmitter and so its program will be received only in Knin.

Fighting Continues in Krajina

AU2102171493 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Report by Danko Peric from Knin]

[Text] The report by the Krajina Headquarters states that artillery fire has been opened at the civilian buildings in Obrovac, Smiljcic, Gornji Zemunik, and wider Benkovac area. The positions of the Serbian units in the area of Novi Grad were targeted last night. New offensive actions by the enemy are feared, while it has been noticed that the Croatian population is hastily moving out of the Lekenik region in Banija.

The end of the academic year in the local primary school was announced for 27 February; this is ascribed to the preparations of the Croatian Army for the attack on the Banija part of the Republic of Serbian Krajina.

The attempt to infiltrate a saboteur group across the Kupa River was thwarted. At least two Ustashas ended up in the river, while eight of them fled in confusion. The military police of the Croatian Army is unsuccessfully hunting for several deserters.

Today's report by the press center of the General Staff of the Serbian Army of the Republic of Serbian Krajina claims that some 2,000 Serbs were (?converted) in Osijek in the last month. The Serbs capable of fighting are being given uniforms and equipment and sent to the Zadar hinterland. Those Serbs in Osijek who did not convert are being evicted from their houses and apartments and housed in Tvrdjavica, in dilapidated and damaged houses lacking all proper living conditions, the press center of the General Staff of the Serbian Army of the Republic of Serbian Krajina claims.

In Knin, there are absolutely no commentaries about the difficulties encountered in the New York talks where the Krajina delegation is led by Goran Hadzic, president of the state of Krajina. One can say than hardly anyone believed in a peaceful solution to the problems that have been present here for nearly three years.

The General Staff of the Serbian Army neither confirmed nor denied a report that Zeljko Raznjatovic Arkan was ordered to leave the Republic of Serbian Krajina, as today's issue of VECERNJE NOVOSTI writes. However, judging by today's statement for the public by one of the Krajina brigades, namely the Obrovac command, they do not intend to keep quiet about the problems with some of the volunteers who arrived at the Krajina battlefields. The command of Obrovac brigade reports that all defenders must subordinate themselves to the command of the General Staff of the Serbian Army of the Republic of Serbian Krajina. The Obrovac command particularly stresses the significance of the arrival of the officers from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia who originate from Serbian Krajina and other Serbian regions. The statement of the Obrovac command supports the intentions to use even methods of compulsion [metode prisile] in fighting the negative incidents.

The television program of the Serbian television of Knin, whose founder is the Knin commune, is being broadcast without any interruptions or problems. Since the night before last the quality of the signal has improved, thanks to the technical help of Belgrade Radio and Television, and the signal now reaches even some parts of the Knin commune that were hitherto deprived of the possibility to receive the signal of the Knin program and of other programs carried by the transmitters and relay stations in this region. This is important information, bearing in

mind that a film-editing station belonging to Belgrade Television was last week transferred from the offices of Knin Serbian Television to Gracac with an explanation that program under the name of Television of Republic of Serbian Krajina will be broadcast from this Krajina town, whose editorial board would be loyal to the director appointed by the Government of the Republic at the session before last. Unofficial reports say that the program from Gracac is not being broadcast due to technical problems.

Air-Raid Alarms in Sound in Knin, Benkovac

AU2102183093 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Excerpt] An air-raid alarm was sounded in Knin at 1800. Danko Peric reports on the situation in north Dalmatian battlefield:

[Begin Peric recording] Because of the danger posed by the artillery attack directed from the vicinity of Biograd na Moru the sirens in Benkovac shortly after noon sounded a general alarm.

I have just obtained information about the arrival of reinforcements at the positions of the Croatian Army in the Gospic battlefield. The soldiers are mostly arriving by helicopter, while the mountain road from Stari Grad and Paklenica toward Libinje and Ivine Vodice in Velebit is being hastily prepared for the transport of military vehicles and military hardware.

Colonel Petar Trbovic, commander of the Gracac Brigade of the Serbian Army of the Republic of Serbian Krajina, anticipates that it will not be long before the Croatian Army attacks the Lika part of the Serbian Krajina. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Serbs Reportedly Attack Zadar; Two Injured

LD1902151393 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Report from Zadar by Toni Pajkin]

[Excerpts] At 1343 a general alert was sounded for Zadar after Serbian outlaws fired three grenades at the town from multiple launchers. According to initial reports, two citizens of Zadar were injured. It is difficult to say whether there have been any other casualties. This was the third time this week that the citizens of Zadar had to run to their shelters. [passage omitted]

In the Biograd area, the general alert which was sounded last night is still in force. Six missiles were fired at Biograd from a village near Benkovac; one person sustained light injuries.

Croatian villages and Croatian Army positions came under attack throughout the hinterland. Several projectiles were fired at Rupalj from multiple rocket launchers positioned in Veljani. Galovac also came under attack from multiple rocket launchers in Debelo Brdo. Serbian terrorists fired artillery from Korlat on Zemunik Donji, which also came under attack this morning from Zemunik Gornji and Trljug. Kasic was attacked from Biljane, while the wider area of Galovac and Josani came under tank fire from the occupied Croatian villages of Nadin and Kula Atlagic. There were also attacks on the wider area of Pridraga and other parts of the Zadar battlefield this morning, which are still under way.

Army Reports Serbs 'on the Move' in Slavonia

AU2202114493 Paris AFP in English 1137 GMT 22 Feb 93

[Text] Zagreb, Feb 22 (AFP)—Residents of the Croatian port town of Zadar had to spend Sunday [21 February] night in bomb shelters as Serbian artillery opened up a number of times with multiple-rocket launchers, television reports here said Monday.

Sporadic heavy artillery fire was heard overnight and continued Monday morning in villages in the Zadar hinterland.

The reports said the situation remained tense at Karlovac 50 kilometres (30 miles) from here after a Croatian soldier was killed and sporadic Serbian fire went on through the night.

The Croatian army said Serbian tanks and troop trucks were on the move in eastern Croatia around the villages of Ernestinovo, Ceric and Mirkovcin, near the Croatian-held town of Osijek, the main town in eastern Slavonia.

Army Said To Launch New Offensive in Krajina

LD1902180993 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1733 GMT 19 Feb 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] Knin, February 19 (TANJUG)—Forces of the former Yugoslav Republic of Croatia at around noon local time on Friday [19 February] launched a combined artillery-tank-infantry attack towards Benkovac, a town in the southern part of the Republic of Serbian Krajina (RSK) which is a U.N. Protected Area (UNPA), spokesman of the RSK Army Command, Col. Kosta Novakovic said.

Col. Novakovic told a news conference there had been no changes in the front line because the Serbian defenders were ready for Croatia's new offensive.

Col. Novakovic said that ten Serbian fighters had been killed and 39 wounded in the battles fought in the past ten days.

The RSK Army spokesman said that battles were daily fought in the area of Mount Velebit, where he said Serbian fighters had destroyed and incapacitated quite a few strongholds and captured a number of elevations.

Croatia's aggression on the RSK, launched on January 22, continues despite the U.N. Security Council calls on Croatia to withdraw its troops to the initial positions.

Col. Novakovic said that the RSK Army was capable not only of waging defensive battles but also of undertaking offensive operations.

Serbs Release Muslim POW's

LD2102110893 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in English 1005 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Text] Fifty-four Muslims who had been detained in a Serb-run prison camp in Batkovic were released last night near Lipovac, in the Vinkovci municipality. This was the second half of an exchange organized by France. Fifty-four Serbs from Zenica and Sarajevo had been freed earlier. The newly released POW's, nearly all civilians, are staying at the Gasinci refugee center near Djakovo.

Dailies Charge UNHCR Trucks of Arms Deliveries

LD2002151993 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1414 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] Belgrade, Feb 20 (TANJUG)—Police of the Republic of Serb Krajina (RSK) have found 760,000 Deutsche Marks in UNHCR trucks shuttling between Cazin, a Moslem-populated enclave in northwestern Bosnia, and Croatia, the Belgrade papers POLITIKA and VECERNJE NOVOSTI write on Saturday [20 February]. The money, seized at the border of the U.N.-protected RSK and Croatia, was to be used for the purchase of arms in Slovenia which would then be returned by the same trucks together with food and medicaments for the Cazin Moslems, the papers say.

The Deutsche Marks were packed in nine envelopes and hidden in five trucks owned by the Agrokomerc Company of Cazin. The trucks were painted white and had UNHCR registration plates, say POLITIKA and VECERNJE NOVOSTI.

The UNHCR convoy consisted of 11 trucks owned by Agrokomerc and five trucks of the French batallion of the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in the former Yugoslavia. Nothing illegal was found in the French trucks.

Agrokomerc's trucks with UNHCR markings have been carrying humanitarian aid to the Cazin region for months, say the papers. After questioning the Agrokomerc drivers engaged by the UNHCR, the RSK police said their statements had only confirmed the suspicions that had been present for some time—that humanitarian aid convoys are being used to transport arms to the Moslems in Cazin.

POLITIKA and VECERNJE NOVOSTI recall that the Serb authorities in the RSK have on several occasions protested with the UNHCR when their police were not allowed to inspect trucks carrying humanitarian supplies.

In the course of the investigation so far, the RSK police have established that the 760,000 Deutsche Marks were obtained from the sale of UNHCR packages on the black market in the Cazin region.

The role of Belgian Jacques Franklin, who works for the UNHCR in Cazin, has yet to be established. The RSK police say that he must have known that proceeds from the sale of humanitarian aid were being used for the purchase of arms.

The police also found a large quantity of sealed letters in the UNHCR trucks.

POLITIKA and VECERNJE NOVOSTI say that this was yet another example of the UNHCR overstepping its mandate, because the letters should have been sent through the International Committee of the Red Cross which uses special forms for that purpose.

Peterle Asks Arab States To Take in Bosnians

LD1902140193 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1229 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] Ljubljana, 19 Feb (TANJUG)—Slovene Foreign Minister Lojze Peterle sent a letter to 35 foreign ministers of ICO [Islamic Conference Organization]-member countries pleading with them to help "share the burden of refugees" from Bosnia-Hercegovina. Arab states could help by accepting refugees or securing supplies for at least some of the 53 refugee centers in Slovenia, Peterle states in the letter.

Peterle stresses in the letter "there is concern that there will be a fresh influx of refugees from Bosnia-Hercegovina in Slovenia" as a result of the situation there. Peterle asks Arab countries "to respect the principle of equal distribution" of the material burden for refugees because Slovenia had set aside 250 million dollars from the budget for refugees so far, and all employees in Slovenia were given a one-day salary for refugees.

SNS Congress Elects Stanic Party President

AU1902145693 Ljubljana DELO in Slovene 15 Feb 93 p 2

[Report by Matjaz Erznoznik: "Jelincic Stripped of Presidential Post"]

[Text] Ljubljana, 14 February—Misunderstandings, quarrels, and mutual accusations between the deputies, party members in the field, and the leadership of the Slovene National Party [SNS] resulted in an initiative calling for an extraordinary SNS congress. The congress, which took place on Saturday [14 February], was called at the request of the majority of regional committees by the SNS deputies who had left Jelincic's club of deputies because they disagreed with the authoritarian manner in which the party had been led and because of arbitrary decisionmaking about the political directives. Jelincic expelled them from the party for lack of discipline, but the six "dissidents" refused to accept the expulsion.

In their view, only the party's presidency can rule on their expulsion. However, according to Ludvik Klavs this body did not exist at all during Jelincic's leadership. Expulsions, flirting with the Liberal Democrats, and Jelincic's policy in general, which was at odds with the preelection promises, was supposedly viewed with a great deal of dissatisfaction by members in the field, too. The regional committees were increasingly clamoring for a change of leadership and consistent realization of the policy outlined in the program. At the congress the delegates of 32 regional party committees decided about the realization of the future policy, passed a no-confidence motion in current president Zmago Jelincic, and elected new leading bodies of the party.

The candidates for the new party president were Irena Oman and Marjan Stanic. Saso Lap, Ludvik Klavs and Henrik Pust were invited to be candidates. Pust did not wish to run for the position. Ferdinand Debeljak was also invited, but could not confirm his candidacy due to absence. In the voting, 76 out of the current 82 communal delegates supported Stanic, a paper technologist and former defense secretary in Siska commune [Ljubljana]. However, many problems have followed the replacement of the president. Jelincic will not give up his presidency readily and the party funds from the budget are still in his name. The newly elected leadership of the party will therefore demand that the back account be frozen and remain so until the court decides who will inherit the funds. The lawyers will have the last word in appointing the legitimate SNS representatives in the State Chamber.

After being elected, Marjan Stanic expressed the hope that the court would view Saturday's extraordinary congress as legitimate, since it was supposedly held in accordance with the democratic principles of decision-making. In light of such an opinion, the issue of successor to the party's assets should be resolved in an appropriate legal and formal manner. He stressed that the party did not split at the congress and no parallel party has been formed.

The commissioners' decision is confined merely to stripping Jelincic of the presidential function. The former party leader, therefore, has every right to continue as a party member, Stanic said. He expressed the hope that the remaining SNS deputies would accept the decision of the congress and that a united SNS club of deputies would be restored. This would solve a number of legal disputes and help create a powerful opposition policy in the State Chamber, Stanic said. He added that with today's adoption of the new SNS statute and rules of procedure neither Jelincic's expulsion of deputies nor the congress the former president announced for March any longer have a legal basis in the party's documents.

The statute and the rules of procedure endorsed at the extraordinary congress thoroughly regulate the structure, cadre policy, and basic program directives of the party, especially in the matters Jelincic was criticized for neglecting them as a result of his power aspirations. The statute prescribes the composition of the presidency, which, under Jelincic's leadership, the party lacked. As a result of his function the party president will be elected in the party's caucus, as will the president of the party's council, the head of the club of deputies, and presidents of provincial party presidencies. The party is supposed to call a regular congress within three months.

Federal

Navy Reports Clash With Croatian Units

LD2102152993 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1420 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Text] Belgrade, 21 Feb (TANJUG)—One member of the Yugoslav People's Army was killed yesterday afternoon in the border village of Sitnica near Herceg-Novi when units of the Republic of Croatia Army opened fire on the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the information service of the Yugoslav Navy Command reported today. The Yugoslav Navy returned fire. The command issued the following statement:

Armed provocations by the Croatian Army have become more frequent over the past few days against the areas in which border units of the Yugoslav Navy are deployed.

On 20 February 1993 at 1340, units of the Croatian Army opened tank fire from the direction of Dubravka on our positions in the village of Sitnica.

A vehicle distributing food at the time was hit in the attack, and reserve soldier Milenko Radovic, 25, from Sitnica, was killed and civilian Desimir Tesovic from Prcanj was seriously injured.

Our units immediately and fiercely responded to the armed attack of the Croatian Army after which the conflict ended.

Assembly To Elect Prime Minister on 1 March

LD1902151093 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1358 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] Belgrade, 19 Feb (TANJUG)—The federal prime minister will be elected on 1 March, when both chambers of the Yugoslav Assembly will be in session. The prime minister will be elected after he presents his program and government. It was revealed today that Radoman Bozovic and Milos Radulovic, chairmen of the Chambers of Citizens and Republics, have convened a joint session of both chambers for 1 March. Prime Minister-designate Radoje Kontic is due to present his program and government at that session. Following this, the deputies of both chambers will vote on the report and proposed government in secret ballots at separate chamber sessions.

Youths Attack U.S. Property in Belgrade

AU1902160293 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 19 Feb 93 p 22

[G. M. report: "With Bricks on the U.S. Cultural Center"]

[Text] Three unidentified young men threw bricks and broke windows of the U.S. Cultural Center on Knez Mihajlova Street in Belgrade around 1500 yesterday afternoon. One of the bricks was wrapped in white paper with the following message: "Death to American S. shit," which undoubtedly leads to the conclusion that this act has political background.

The German Cultural Center on the same street experienced a similar fate only a few minutes earlier, when most probably the same group broke a window with a brick.

We have unofficially learned one of the attackers was immediately caught, while two others are still at large. It is assumed that the stoning of the U.S. and German cultural centers is an expression of dissatisfaction with the attitudes of these two countries toward the war in the former Yugoslavia.

Commander Favors Civilian for Defense Minister

AU1902154093 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 18 Feb 93 p 2

[Interview with Colonel General Bozidar Stevanovic, commander of the Yugoslav Air Force, by Borislav Solesa; place and date not given: "Defense Minister Should Be a Civilian"]

[Text] According to Podgorica POBJEDA, Colonel General Bozidar Stevanovic, commander of the Air Force and the Air Defense, is one of the main candidates for new defense minister of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. We asked General Stevanovic whether this was true. I find this claim from Podgorica, or rather the claim by POBJEDA, funny. These are only speculations, insinuations, the commander replied.

[Solesa] Have you had any contacts with Federal Prime Minister Radoje Kontic?

[Stevanovic] No. We in the military leadership, as you call it, think that the defense minister should be a civilian, and that the appointment of the defense minister in this multiparty system primarily depends on the federal prime minister, who can appoint this or any other minister as he thinks appropriate. As is known, the defense minister's immediate obligations are to the Army. It is also known that the well-established practice in all democratic counties in the world is that this is not a post for a soldier. I think that this practice will be observed in our country, too. I do not know who came up with the idea of me being a candidate for defense minister, or what the motives were.

[Solesa] The so-called "Turgut Ozal alliance" is now being created and this alliance has hostile attitudes toward Yugoslavia. The Turkish president held talks with the leaderships in Sofia and Albania with not very friendly intentions....

[Stevanovic] This is not a real alliance and I think that the creation of this alliance was aimed at scoring points on the Turkish political scene, that is to say, at meeting internal demands. There is no realistic basis whatsoever for this alliance to act against us. I think that Bulgaria, in

particular, would not support any such action. After all, Turkey is physically far away from us.

[Solesa] Perhaps they are counting on air strikes?

[Stevanovic] They cannot come here unless they use the territory of neighboring countries. As can be seen, our neighbors are opposed to them in this situation, just as we are. In my view this is out of the question. This is also ridiculous because of the political implications.

[Solesa] The post of defense minister has been retained in the new Serbian Government. What is your view about the existence of this post in view of the fact that the Army is federal?

[Stevanovic] Well, the Army of Yugoslavia has its tasks, while defense as a whole, as a broader notion and activity, is something different. The republican defense ministries will most probably be retained in the republics, because society's obligations to defense are of a different nature. I repeat, the defense of the country is a broader notion than the notion of the Army. Generally speaking, the spatial structure is of significant importance for defense. This must be within the republics' sphere of authority. Therefore, the retention of the defense ministries has its purpose. It signifies the participation of society as a whole in the defense of the country. Therefore, this defense ministry has many assignments that are not in the direct jurisdiction of the Army of Yugoslavia. I do not know whether I am being precise enough, but this is how things are.

[Solesa] During the trial of the protagonists of the Opera affair, your name was mentioned several times since you, as a commander, were wiretapped [prisluskivati]. What is your view on that?

[Stevanovic] I think that those who carried out this criminal act tried to exploit this fact and divert the public's attention from some other things. I have no connection with this, nor did I take part in it. Investigations have established certain "criminal activities" and they were presented during the trial. This was established by a commission which submitted its findings to the prosecutor's office. I do not known anything about it. It was in someone's interest to deceive the public, probably in order to lessen the guilt and divert public attention from what they actually did. I do not know what my view on all this is, since, I must admit, I have not exactly been following the trial.

[Solesa] What do you think about the statement by Zivota Panic, chief of the General Staff, who said in an interview that this trial should have not been held, and that this was in a way a revelation of state secrets that should have buried in history?

[Stevanovic] I do not know why he said this. Perhaps he did not know the details of the accusations. Whether the trial was conducted successfully or not is another problem, but this has nothing to do with me.

Serbia

Vranje Hospital, Bakery Without Oil

LD1902190293 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1510 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Vranje, 19 Feb (TANJUG)—Since it was left without oil the Vranje Hospital was compelled to switch off its central heating system last night. For the same reason the town's bakery will not be able to switch on its big ovens and bake the usual 16,500 loaves of bread for tomorrow.

The bakery in Vranjska Banja is also in a serious position because it was left without flour and oil and therefore it will be unable to supply 2,000 loaves of bread to this tourist resort tomorrow.

In order to avoid this it was decided at a session in the Vranje municipal assembly today to supply the Vranjska Banja bakery with flour from commodity reserves so that the customers can get the standard quantity of bread. [passage omitted]

Sanctions Put 800,000 Workers on Forced Vacation

AU1902165493 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Miroslav Pisarevic report]

[Excerpt] Because of the sanctions, barely 20 to 30 percent of the production facilities in Serbia are still operating, while 800,000 workers are on forced vacation. Their salaries, which represent 75 percent of the minimum wage levels, are paid out of the Fund for the Lowest Salaries, which provided 55 million dinars last yea.. The monthly salaries of 680,000 workers were paid out of this fund. There were applications to the Fund from 210 companies with 180,000 workers for January salaries. Companies in the textile and metallurgy industries submitted the largest number of applications. The trade union federation has reiterated its demand that the Serbian budget should provide the Fund with a permanent source of income and that, on the priority list of payments, the lowest salaries should be in third place, just after social help and pensions. [passage omitted]

Official Views Fuel Shortages in Belgrade

LD1902145193 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1308 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Belgrade, 19 Feb (TANJUG)— Dobrivoje Perovic, the president of the Belgrade crisis committee and deputy city mayor, warned today that fuel reserves are slowly running out. The republican and city committees are investing maximum efforts to secure necessary quantities of heating oil and gas for the entire season—that is, until the end of March—Perovic told a TANJUG reporter. [passage omitted]

Currently there is not enough heating oil for schools and nurseries in some suburban municipalities, but this problem will be soon resolved, Perovic promised. Necessary quantities of oil have been secured for public transport and community services only, and occasional shortages are being solved "by shifting oil around" so that the city can function normally, Perovic stressed. [passage omitted]

Serbian Radical Party Wants Economic Measures

AU2202103093 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] The Serbian Radical Party is of the opinion that the federal and republican governments should begin to implement radical economic and social measures as soon as possible so that our country can endure the next impact of the sanctions, party leader Vojislav Seselj said. Dragoljub Stankic has the details:

[Begin recording] [Stankic] The Serbian Radical Party has again pointed out to the entire Yugoslav public that the sanctions are not going to be lifted soon. Until we persuade America that they cannot take Kosovo and Metohija, Sandzak, and Vojvodina away from us even under the threat of sanctions, we are going to face the consequences of the blockade, Seselj said. We must therefore devote our attention to economic and social problems. Seselj pointed out that they can be solved by equalizing the salaries of all social strata, pursuing a rational economic policy, and carrying out the process of privatization. The Federal Government and the National Bank of Yugoslavia must direct money from the primary issue into public works. Vojislav Seselj pointed out that the Western powers are now reckoning on playing only one card.

[Seselj] Their card is the one of internal unrest in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, particularly in Belgrade. They would like to cause massive strikes at any cost. The workers are justifiably discontented with their social position and these people reckon that they could yield to this blackmail from the West and demand enormous wage increases urgently and immediately. This is not possible but it is possible to reduce the pay to the state administration.

[Stankic] As regards the announcement by some political leaders concerning extra-parliamentary struggle, Seselj said the following:

[Seselj] Chaos never results in a democracy, but always in dictatorship. The one who turns out to be more skillful in the moments of chaos and not the one who touches off the chaos takes all the state reins into his hands. [end recording]

Sandzak Muslims Said Calling For UN Forces

AU2002174293 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 20 Feb 93

[Text] At today's news conference in Novi Pazar, Rasim Ljajic, secretary of the Party of Democratic Action [SDA], stated that the republican and federal organs have done nothing to protect the Muslims in the border villages of the Priboj commune. He also said that the authorities, in cooperation with various paramilitary formations, are carrying out ethnic cleansing of this part of Serbia. Bisera Vukasinovic reports:

[Begin Vukasinovic recording] Rasim Ljajic cited the shelling of the village of Kukurovici in the Priboj commune as the most flagrant case of pressure upon the Sandzak Muslims. In this attack, carried out on 18 February, nine Muslim houses were burned down and three people died, although these are not the final figures yet, Ljajic said and added that all these reports and the information that Kukurovici were shelled by the members of the army of the Serbian republic [Bosnian Serbs], were confirmed to (?Smaj Polinc), president of the SDA in Priboj, by the president of Priboj commune.

One can no longer speak of human rights in Priboj, because the right to life is also threatened, Ljajic then said, giving an example of a Muslim who was kidnapped in the town itself. As a result of this there are no longer any Muslims in the border regions of Priboj commune while half of the population of this town is making preparations for collective exodus. The authorities have not done anything to protect these people. We believe that this is being done in cooperation with the paramilitary formations so that this region would be completely cleansed of the Muslims, Ljajic added.

Although the situation in this Sandzak commune is the most alarming, pressure against the Muslims was also stepped up in other communes, as stated at today's SDA news conference. Here, Ljajic said that a delegation of Muslim humanitarian association Merhamet has been interned near Kacanik and that in Pec the SDA leadership of this town was interned and harassed.

Due to the overall situation, the party will send today a demand to the UN Security Council and to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali personally that blue berets be deployed in Sandzak as the situation here is more alarming than in Macedonia.

Answering reporters' questions, SDA Secretary Rasim Ljajic refused to comment on the citations from the interview of the SDA leader Sulejman Ugljanin to foreign media that were carried in our press and in which a war in Sandzak is being announced, expressing doubt in their authenticity. We neither want nor can even think of any sort of military option. It would be insane to believe that we can stand up against the military machinery that occupied a territory of Croatia and two-thirds of Bosnia. All tales about the alleged armament of Muslims only serve as an excuse to justify what is going on in Sandzak, Ljajic, secretary of the SDA for Sandzak, said at the party's news conference in Novi Pazar today. [end recording]

Macedonia

Foreign Minister Maleski Resigns

LD1902194793 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1908 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] Skopje, 19 Feb (TANJUG)—The Macedonian Government this evening acknowledged with regret the resignation of Foreign Minister Denko Maleski.

Vice Prime Minister Stevo Crvenkovski will take over as acting foreign minister until the appointment of a new minister.

Maleski explained his decision to resign by saying he was disgusted by strong attacks on the part of the opposition at the latest session of the Macedonian Assembly when the opposition expressed dissatisfaction over the stalling of Macedonia's international recognition and its admission to the United Nations.

Police Clash With Protesters in Skopje

LD2102233293 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2120 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Text] Skopje, 21 February (TANJUG)—Ljubomir Frcovski, minister for internal affairs of the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia, told Macedonian television tonight that the police have been ordered to safeguard the building site of the camp for refugees from former Bosnia-Hercegovina in Skopje's western district of "Djorce Petrov" and to "intervene only in the event of citizens trying to break through the police cordon."

In his words, seven policemen and two firemen suffered serious injuries in today's clashes. "The leg of one of the policemen was broken with an iron bar while another was hit on the head with a stone and the front teeth of a third policemen were smashed in," Frckovski said.

Frckovski also said that the police were not under orders to break the blockade of the stretch of the Skopje-Tetovo road running through Djorce Petrov near the building site of the refugee camp.

The option of lifting the blockade by force has been dropped so as not to exacerbate the dispute between the police and the citizens, Frckovski added.

Republican Minister for Urban Planning Antonio Besev told Macedonian television tonight that the government is no longer able to renege on its decision to build the refugee camp since in the meantime, following the government's approval, the investor—the authorities of North Rhine-Westfalen in Germany—and Skopje's building contractor have already agreed to build the camp.

"To renege on this decision would make foreigners regard Macedonia as 'a silly state'," Besev said.

Refugee Village Riots Subside

LD2102234493 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1852 GMT 21 Feb 93

[Text] Skopje, 21 Feb (TANJUG)—Tension between the citizens of the "Djorce Petrov" suburb of Skopje and the police eased somewhat this evening after workers left the building site of the village for refugees from former Bosnia-Hercegovina.

The road between Skopje and Tetovo, which passes through this suburb, is still closed to traffic. The road has been blockaded since noon when embittered citizens overturned containers and placed rocks, trees, and a trailer loaded with timber on the road.

Six citizens and three policemen were injured in the fierce afternoon confrontations between the police and citizens, according to the reports so far.

The citizens initiative committee for preventing the construction of the refugee camp demanded that the government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia immediately withdraw the police and stop building the refugee village and that the disagreement between the citizens and the authorities be resolved not "through violence in the streets but through the legal institutions of the republic."

If their demands are not met, representatives of the citizens initiative committee said this evening, the road between Skopje and Tetovo will remain blockaded until "the government accepts dialogue, since citizens will obstruct the traffic in various ways."

Skopje officials appealed to the citizens of "Djorce Petrov" to stop escalating the confrontation with the police and called on the government to accept a dialogue in which the city authorities will also take part. According to the mayor and his aides this confrontation "cannot be solved hastily, against the will of the population of this suburb."

The refugee village is being built on the basis of a decision by the government and its agreement with the authorities of the German land of North Rhine-Westphalia, which is financing the construction of the refugee village.

The main reason for the citizens' resolute opposition is not only the government's violation of the town-planning arrangement, but also "fear of Islamization of the suburb."